

STORE'S  
EMPTY.

YEP.

SO, UH...  
MAGIC, UH...

HM.  
WHERE TO  
START...

WELL, YOU CAME  
HERE TO ASK ME  
QUESTIONS, SO...

ASK  
AWAY!

OH! SURE, UH...

DID... YOU NOTICE  
YOUR MARK *BEFORE* OR  
*AFTER* YOU KNEW YOU  
COULD DO... WHATEVER  
IT WAS YOU DID TO  
KICK LIKE THAT?

MY  
MARK?

YEAH. WITH ME, I STARTED  
SEEING PEOPLE'S AURAS WAY  
BEFORE I REALIZED THERE WAS  
A MARK ON MY BACK. WAS IT  
THAT WAY WITH YOU?

OF COURSE.  
HE JUST  
ASSUMES...

I DON'T  
HAVE A  
MARK.

WAIT, YOU... YOU  
*STILL* DON'T KNOW  
YOU HAVE ONE?!





I... I DON'T  
SEE A MARK.



REALLY? YOU SOUNDED SO  
SURE I STARTED TO THINK  
THERE MUST BE ONE.



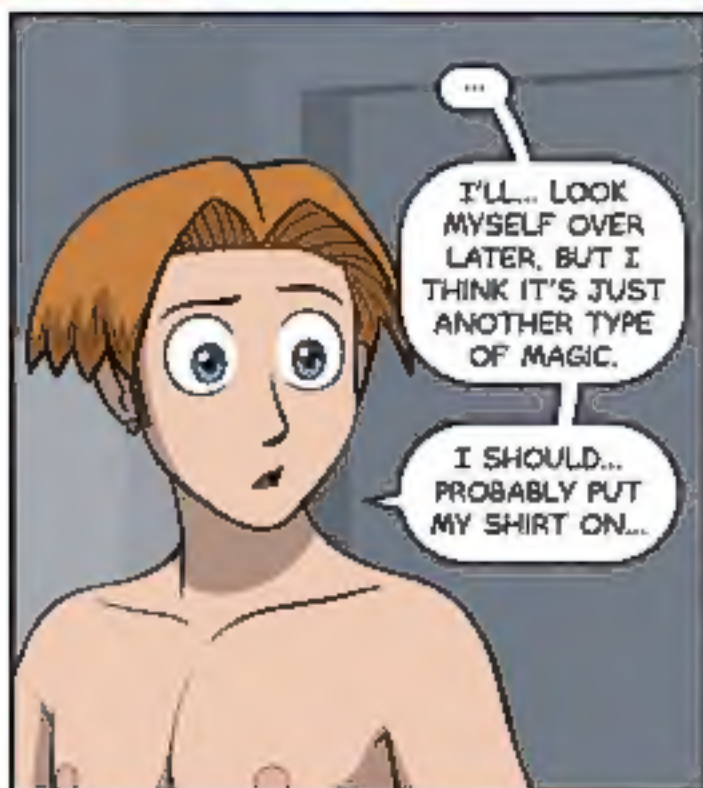
I... I WAS SURE!  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
TO SAY, UH...

CAN THEY BE  
ELSEWHERE?



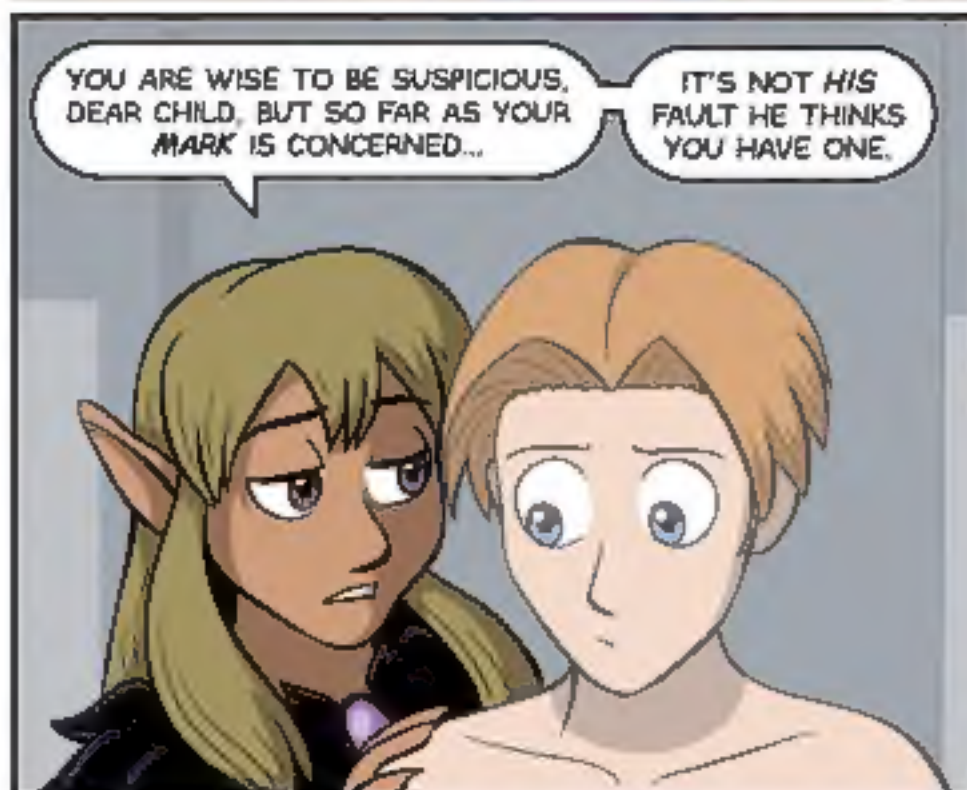
NOT THAT I'M  
VOLUNTEERING TO  
LOOK! I JUST...

I-I WAS PROBABLY JUST  
WRONG! I THOUGHT I  
COULD SPECIFICALLY TELL  
WHEN PEOPLE HAVE MARKS.



I'LL... LOOK  
MYSELF OVER  
LATER, BUT I  
THINK IT'S JUST  
ANOTHER TYPE  
OF MAGIC.

I SHOULD...  
PROBABLY PUT  
MY SHIRT ON...



YOU ARE WISE TO BE SUSPICIOUS,  
DEAR CHILD, BUT SO FAR AS YOUR  
MARK IS CONCERNED...

IT'S NOT *HIS*  
FAULT HE THINKS  
YOU HAVE ONE.



HE HAS NOT YET LEARNED TO  
TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
ONE WHO *HAS* A MARK, AND ONE  
WHO MERELY *HAD* ONE PRIOR TO  
MY WAKING THEM...

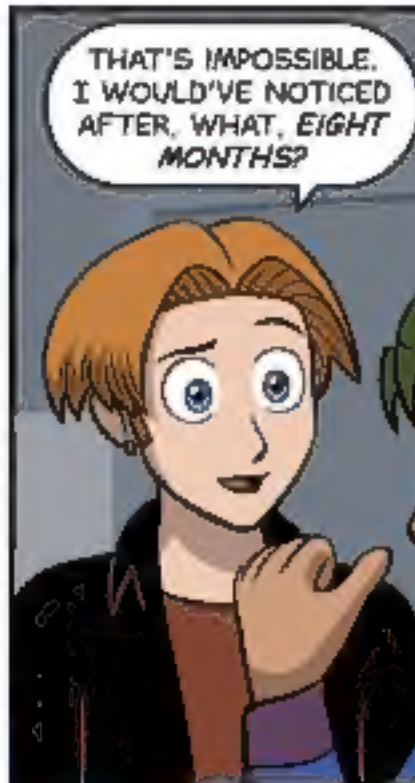




UH, NO. SEE, PEOPLE CAN HAVE MAGIC WITHOUT MARKS, AND...



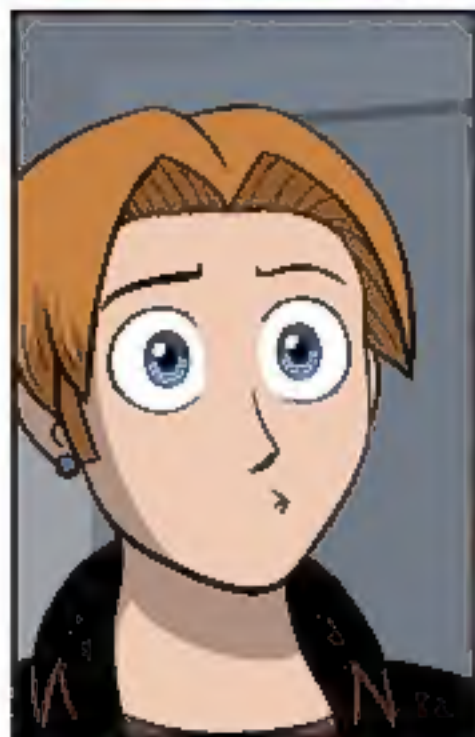
I KNOW THEY CAN. I KNOW BECAUSE I CAN SPECIFICALLY TELL WHEN PEOPLE HAVE MAGIC MARKS, AND YOU HAVE ONE.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I WOULD'VE NOTICED AFTER, WHAT, EIGHT MONTHS?



MINE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF MY UPPER BACK. HOW OFTEN DO YOU LOOK THERE?



WELL, THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.



UH, WHAT?



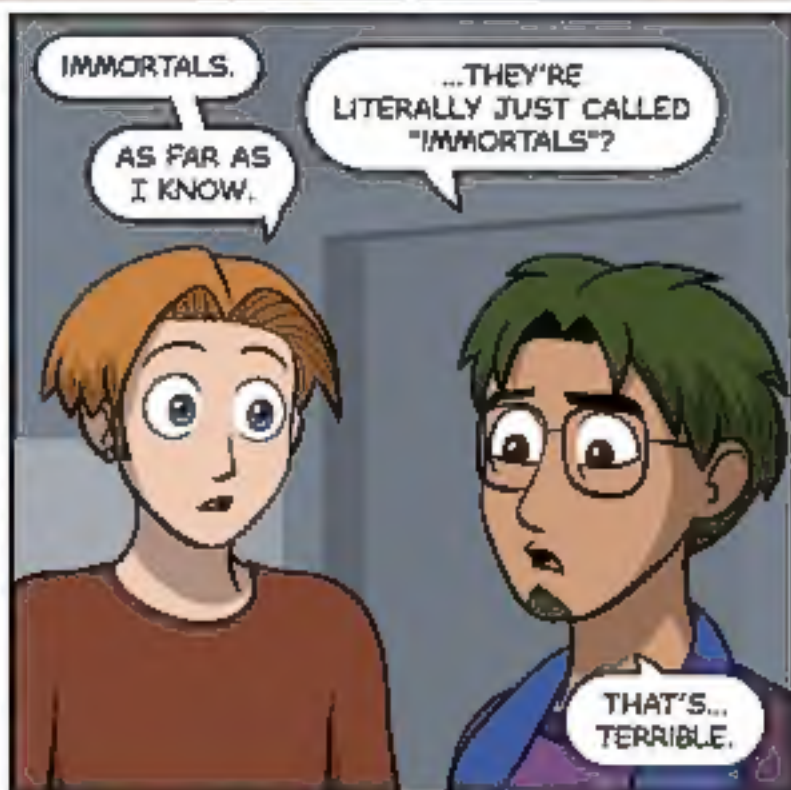
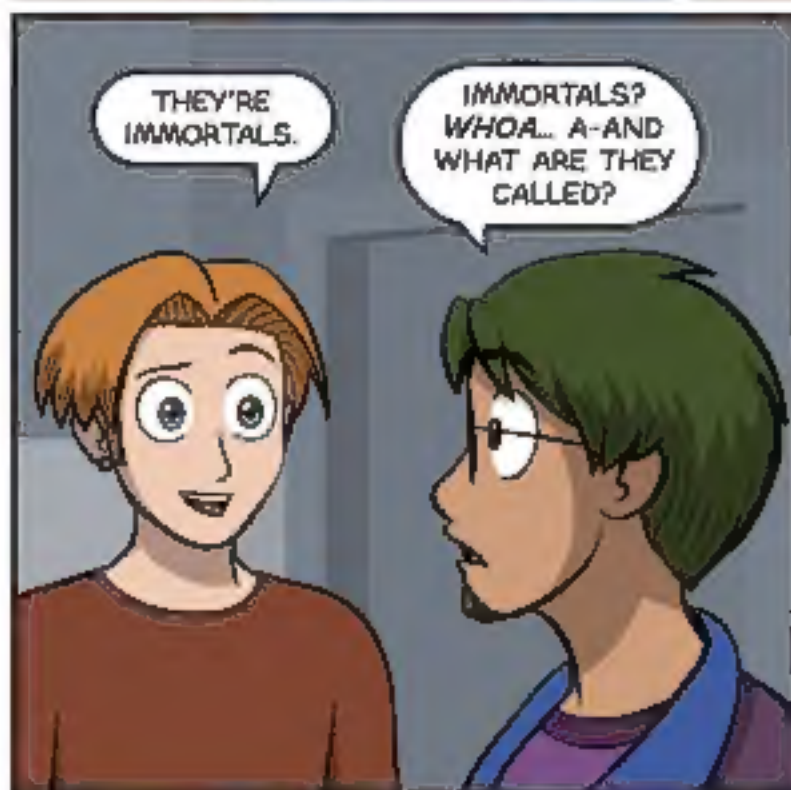
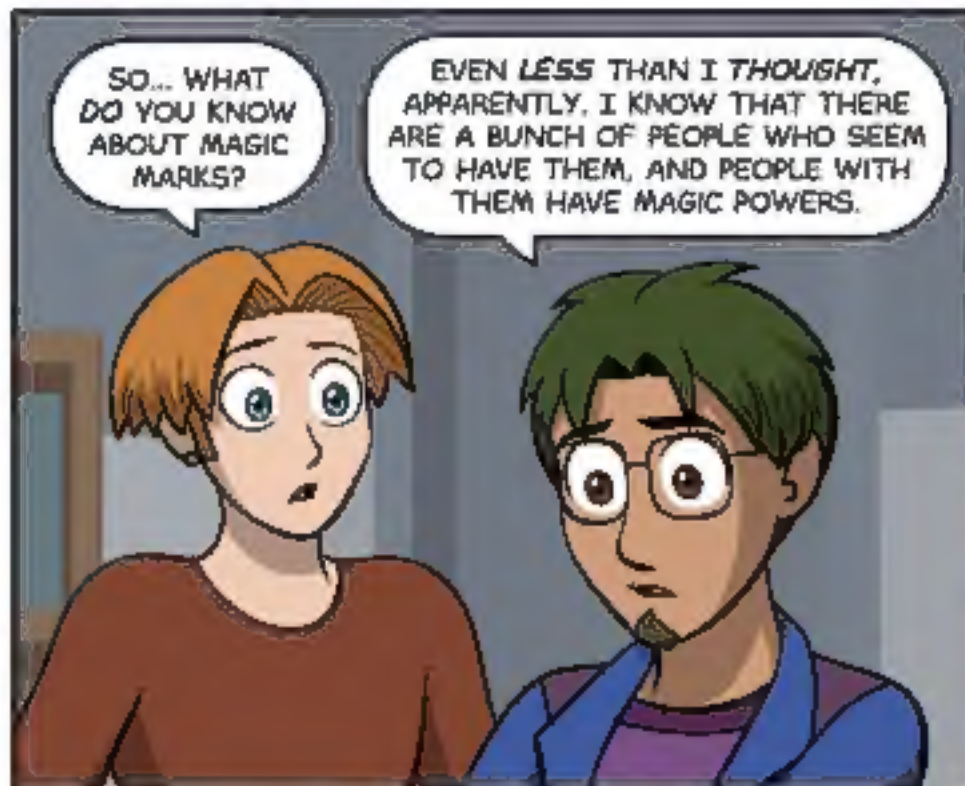
YOU'VE GOT A CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE, RIGHT? YOU CAN SHOW ME IT.

UH, Y-YEAH, SURE.



WELL?







I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY THEY ARE OR HOW THEY WORK, BUT ONE OR MORE IMMORTALS COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING PEOPLE MARKS.

OR MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING ELSE. I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHY WE WERE GIVEN THEM, THEN.

IT *COULD* BE AS SIMPLE AS A BORED IMMORTAL.

BOREDOM IS BUT ONE OF THE *MANY* REASONS I'M UPSETTING THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE LAYERS OF REALITY WITHIN THIS UNIVERSE.

I THINK I SOMEHOW GOT MY ABILITY FROM MARTIAL ARTS, BUT I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW. AND SOME PEOPLE HAVE MULTIPLE SPELLS SOMEHOW, BUT... HM.

HEH. YOU KNOW MORE THAN I DO, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A LOT YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT, TOO.

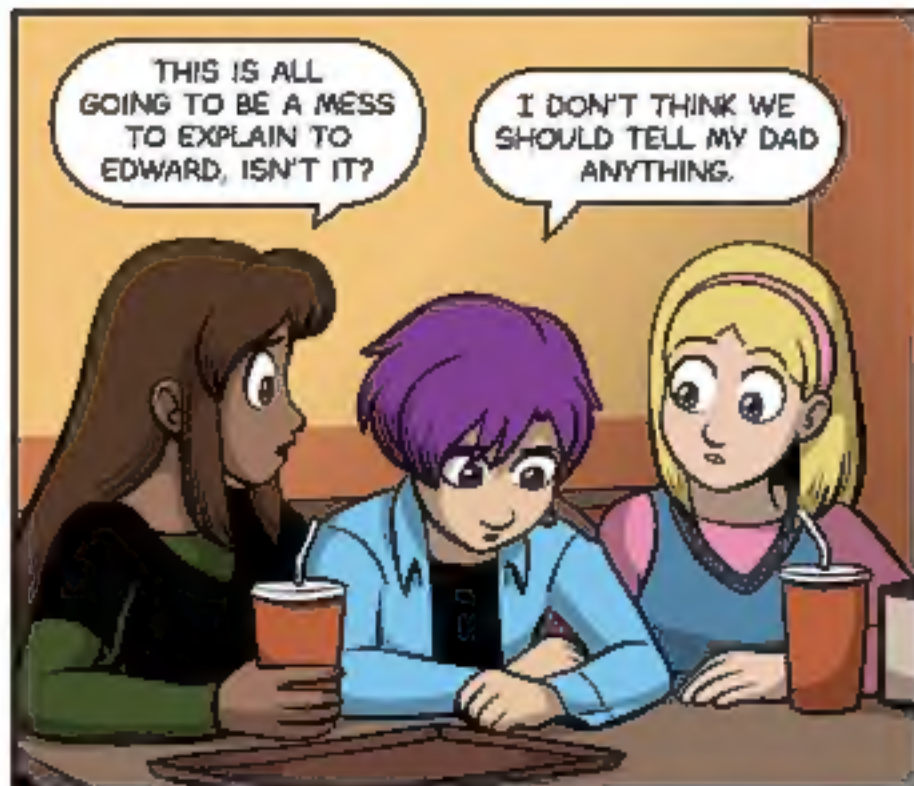
NONETHELESS, VERY ASTUTE.

I'M STARTING TO REALIZE THAT, YEAH. THERE'S A LOT I'M NOT CLEAR ON. THERE... ARE A COUPLE MORE THINGS I KNOW, THOUGH...

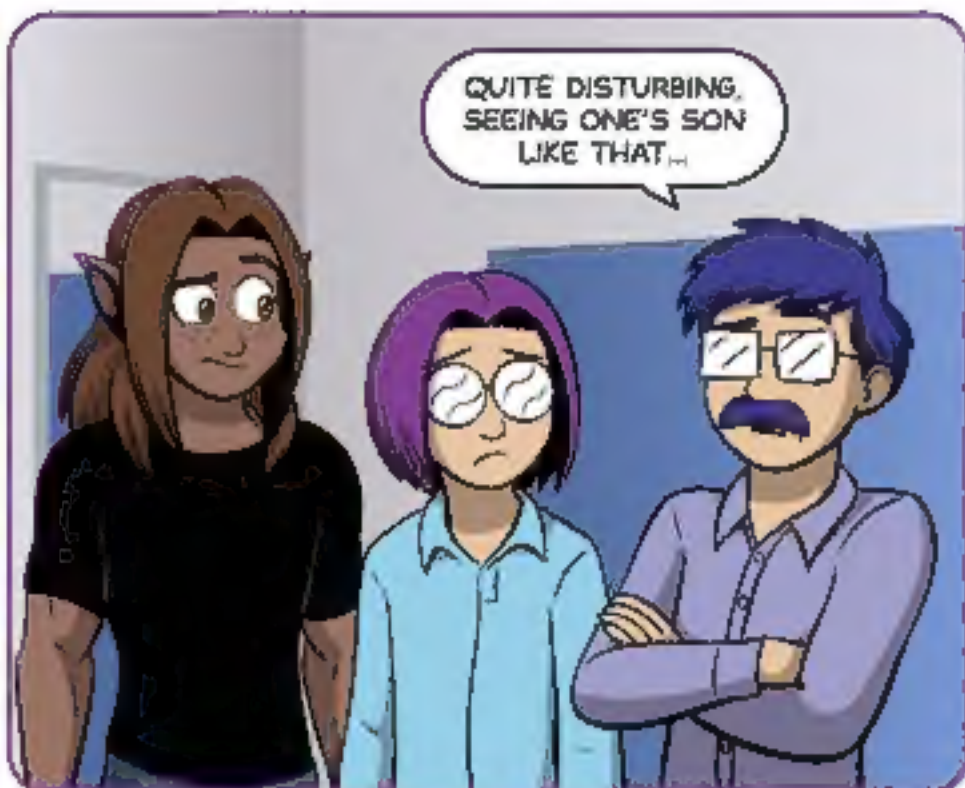
I'M INTERESTED IN WHATEVER YOU CAN TELL ME!

I KNOW YOU'VE MET AT LEAST TWO OTHER PEOPLE WITH CONFIRMED MAGIC MARKS. AND YOU'VE MET AT LEAST ONE MAGIC USER BEFORE TONIGHT WHO DID NOT HAVE A MARK.











I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'D WANT ME TELLING YOU WHO THEY ARE, AND YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THEM ANYWAY, BUT YEAH, I KNOW A COUPLE PEOPLE WITH "CONFIRMED" MAGIC MARKS.

I PROBABLY WOULDN'T KNOW THEM, YEAH. I'M BETTING WE DON'T EVEN GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL.

SCHOOL?  
AS IN *HIGH* SCHOOL?

UH, YEAH, MOPERVILLE SOUTH.

YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL? WITH THOSE ABS?

A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. EIGHTEEN.

OH, GOOD. I MEAN, UH, I'M NINETEEN. FRESHMAN AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

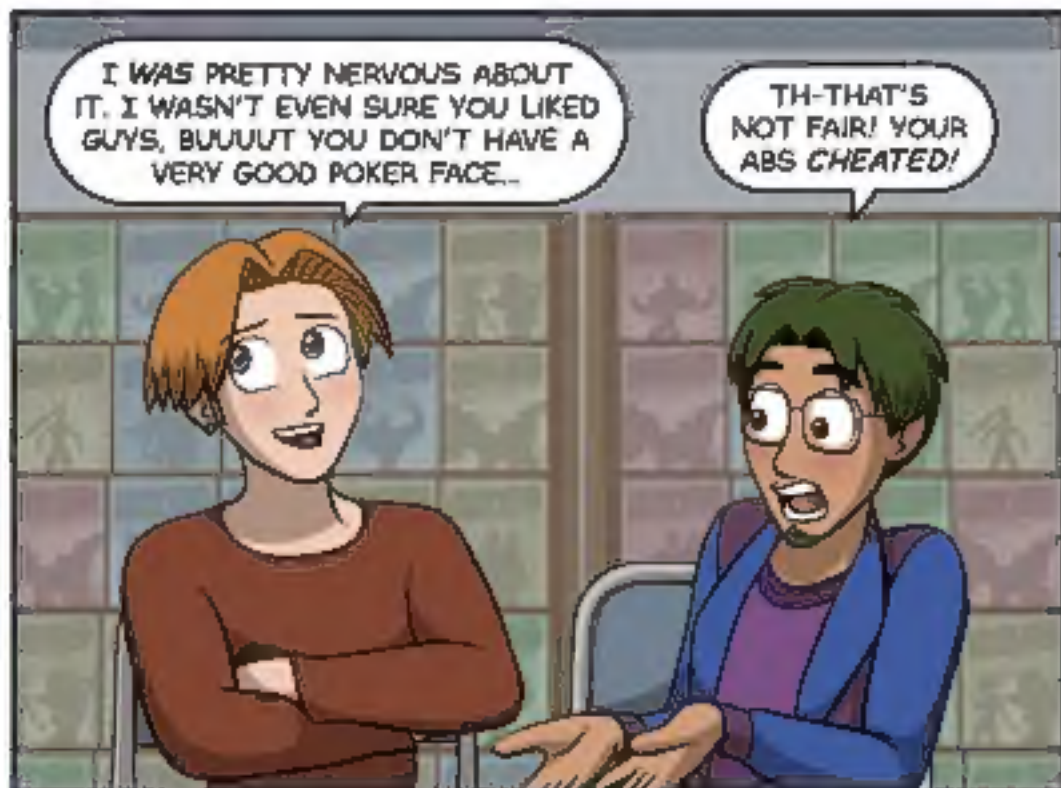
N-NOT THAT OUR RELATIVE AGES MATTER! THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT FOR... ANYTHING...

ACTUALLY, IT DOES MATTER, BECAUSE I WAS SORTA THINKING ABOUT ASKING YOU OUT.



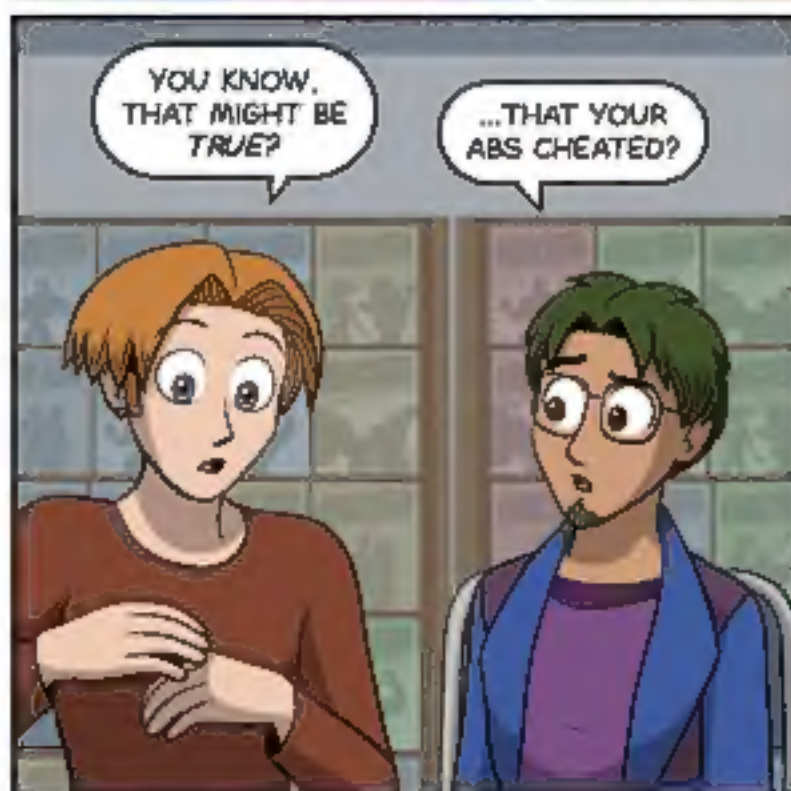


YOU... AH...  
WHAT?



I WAS PRETTY NERVOUS ABOUT  
IT. I WASN'T EVEN SURE YOU LIKED  
GUYS, BUUUUT YOU DON'T HAVE A  
VERY GOOD POKER FACE...

TH-THAT'S  
NOT FAIR! YOUR  
ABS CHEATED!



YOU KNOW,  
THAT MIGHT BE  
TRUE?

...THAT YOUR  
ABS CHEATED?



WELL, THEY MIGHT  
BE MAGIC.

SHUT UP.

NO, I'M SERIOUS.

YOUR  
MAGIC GIVES  
YOU ABS?



JUST HAVING IT  
MIGHT, ACTUALLY. I  
WORK OUT, BUT NOT  
THAT MUCH.

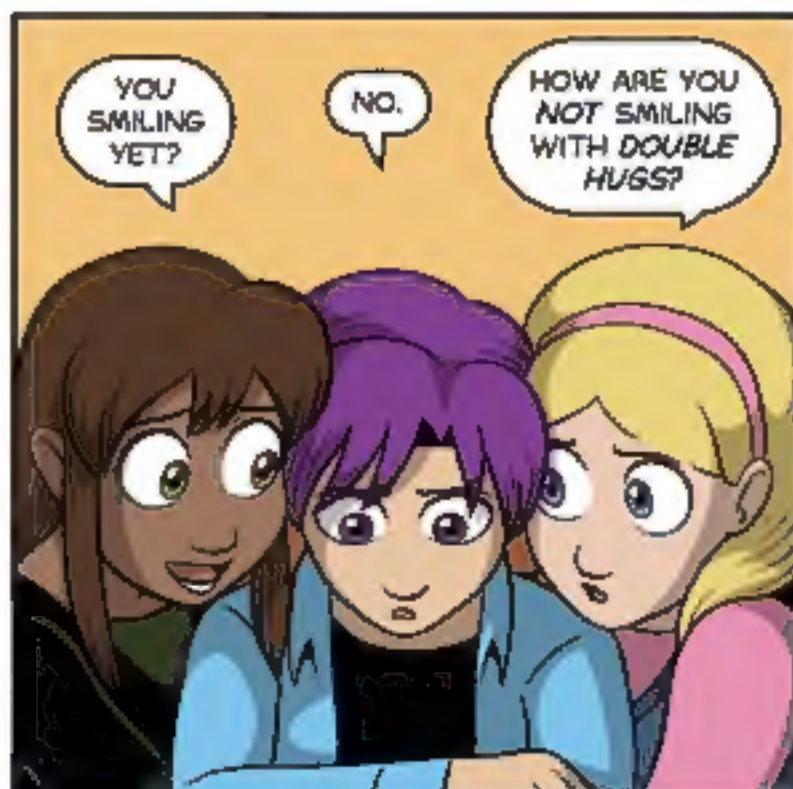
MAGIC MAKES  
PEOPLE BUFF?



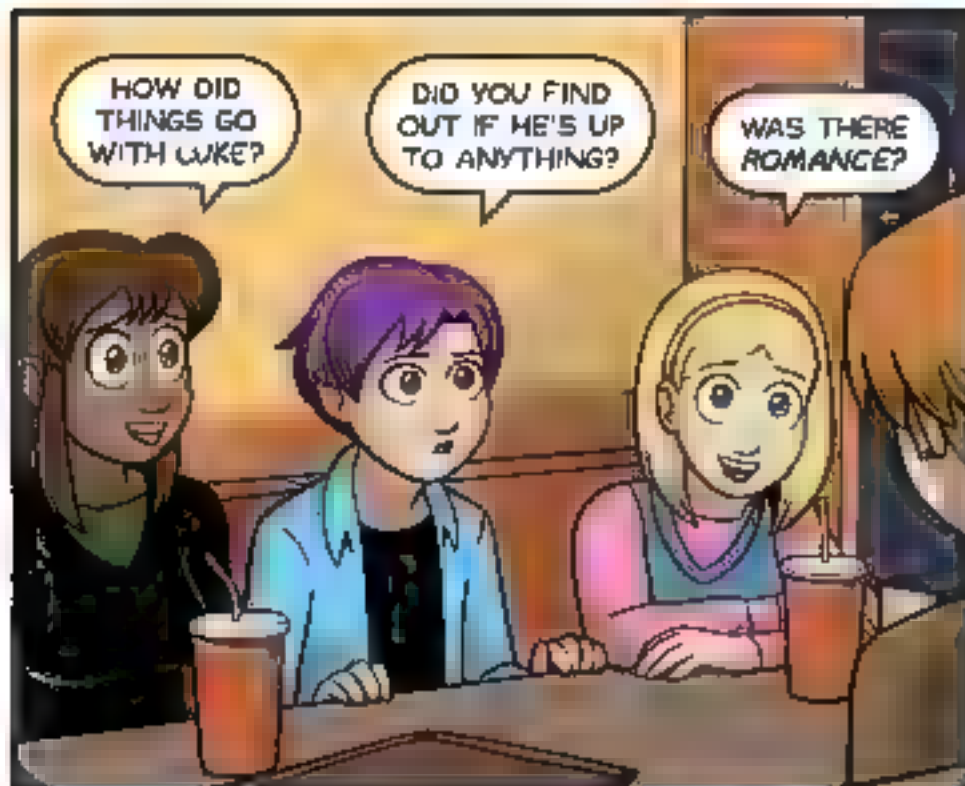
I THINK IT CAN, BUT  
IT VARIES? ANYWAY, UH...  
DO YOU WANT TO GO  
OUT SOMETIME?

I DIDN'T  
SAY YES  
ALREADY?





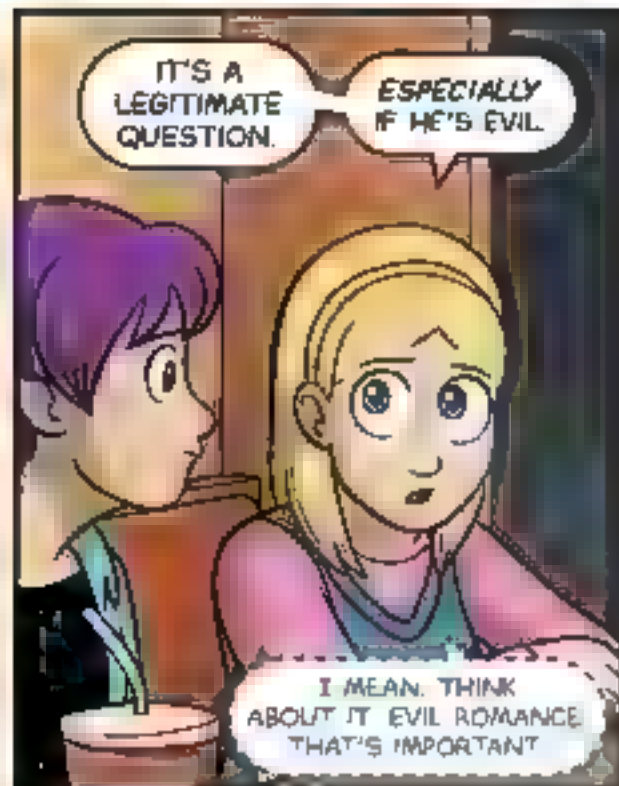




HOW DID THINGS GO WITH LUKE?

DID YOU FIND OUT IF HE'S UP TO ANYTHING?

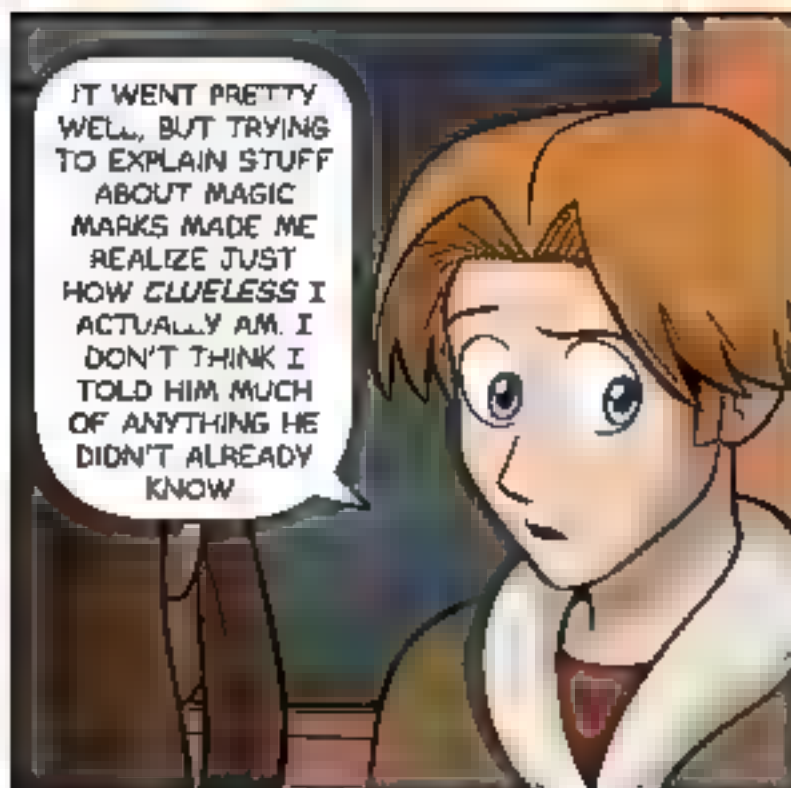
WAS THERE ROMANCE?



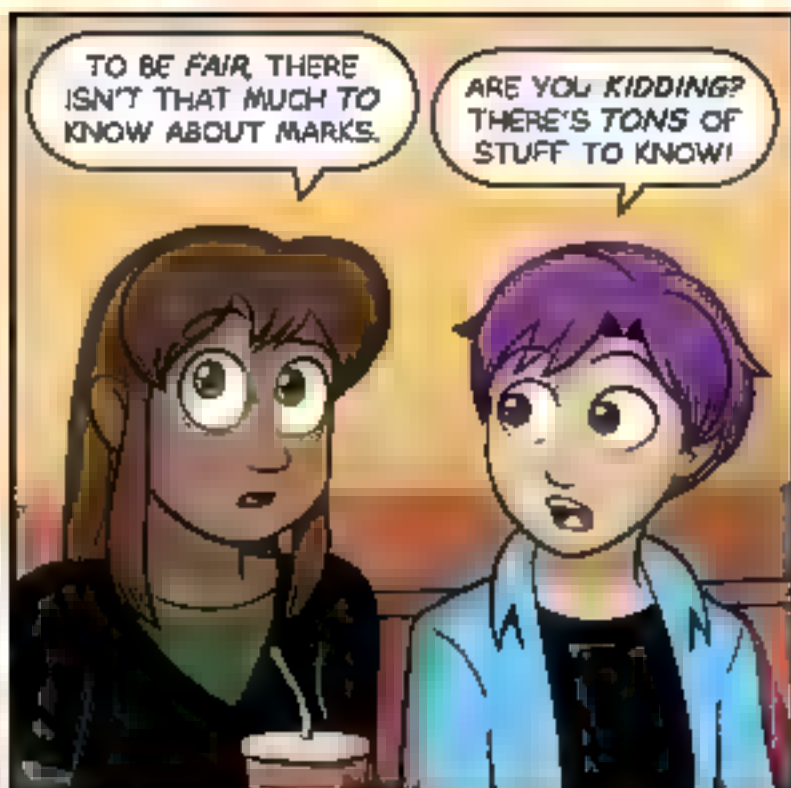
IT'S A LEGITIMATE QUESTION.

ESPECIALLY IF HE'S EVIL.

I MEAN. THINK ABOUT IT. EVIL ROMANCE. THAT'S IMPORTANT.



IT WENT PRETTY WELL, BUT TRYING TO EXPLAIN STUFF ABOUT MAGIC MARKS MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW CLUELESS I ACTUALLY AM. I DON'T THINK I TOLD HIM MUCH OF ANYTHING HE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.



TO BE FAIR, THERE ISN'T THAT MUCH TO KNOW ABOUT MARKS.

ARE YOU KIDDING? THERE'S TONS OF STUFF TO KNOW!



THEY'RE MOST COMMONLY GIVEN BY IMMORTALS. THE ACTUAL SHAPE OF THE MARKS DOESN'T MATTER. BUT THE SURFACE AREA DOES. THE SPELLS ARE BASED ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S INNATE AFFINITY FOR A TYPE OF SPELL, A REFLECTION OF THEIR PERSONALITY SOMETHING THEY'RE YEARNING FOR, OR A COMBINATION OF THE THREE. PEOPLE NEED TO HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO BE GIVEN A MARK IF THEY DON'T HAVE AN INNATE AFFINITY OR YEARNING FOR SOMETHING. AND.



HUH. THAT ACTUALLY RAISES EVEN FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW I WAS ABLE TO GET A MARK.

YOU HAVE A MARK?!



OH UH. I GUESS I NEVER GOT AROUND TO MENTIONING THAT SORRY TEDD HAS A MAGIC MARK UNDER THE HAIR ON HIS HEAD.

SOMEHOW

YOU DO FEEL MORE LIKE A GIRL SOMETIMES MAYBE YOU HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR GENDER MAGIC?

M-MAYBE BUT "AFFINITY" IS LESS A REFLECTION OF SOMEONE'S PERSONALITY AND MORE LIKE SOMETHING GENETIC SUSAN'S AFFINITY FOR MAGIC WEAPONS WAS JUST SOMETHING SHE WAS BORN WITH.

MAYBE YOU YEARNED FOR YOUR OWN GIRLY TRANSFORMATION SPELL?

I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN.. IF NOT FOR HAVING THREE OTHER WAYS TO DO IT

SO... DOES THAT MEAN YOU HAVE A LOT OF MAGIC POWER?

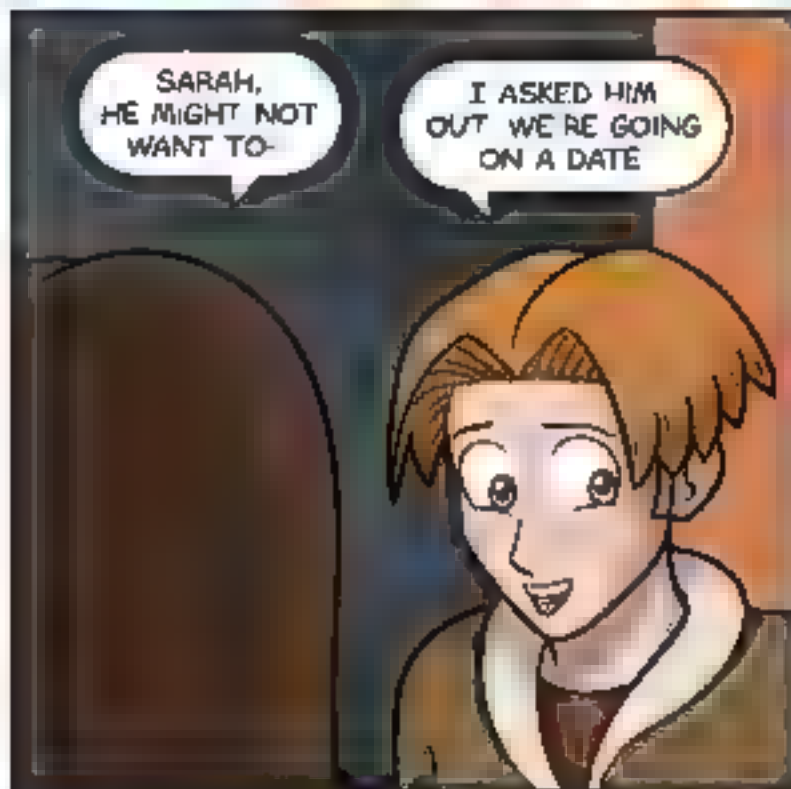
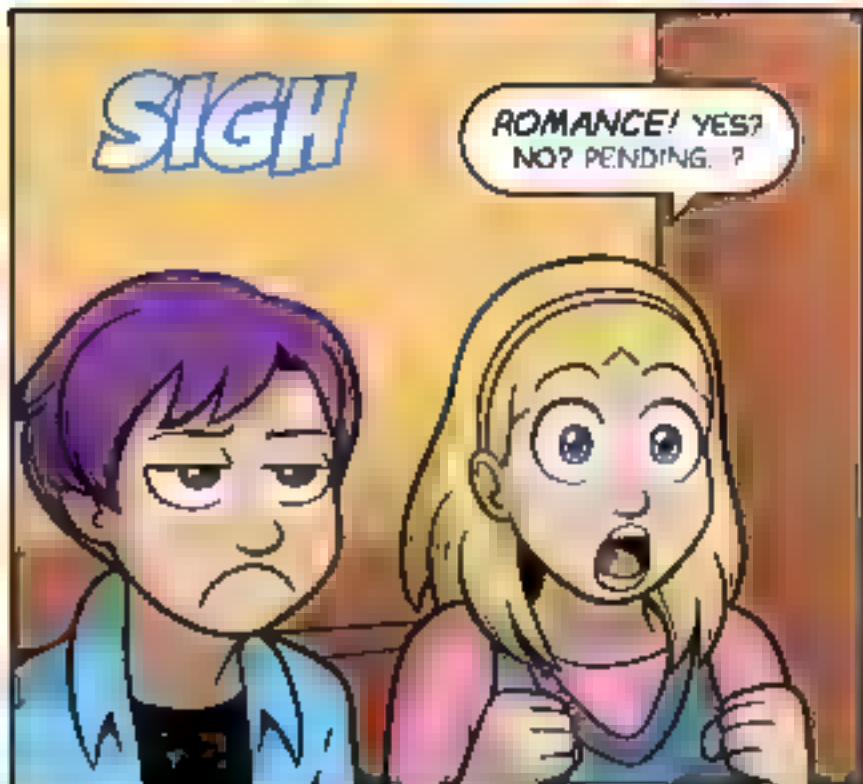
IN THEORY MAYBE? BUT I'M THINKING IT'S MORE LIKELY WE JUST DON'T KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT THE CRITERIA AS WE THOUGHT WE DID

UH. SPEAKING OF NOT KNOWING AS MUCH..

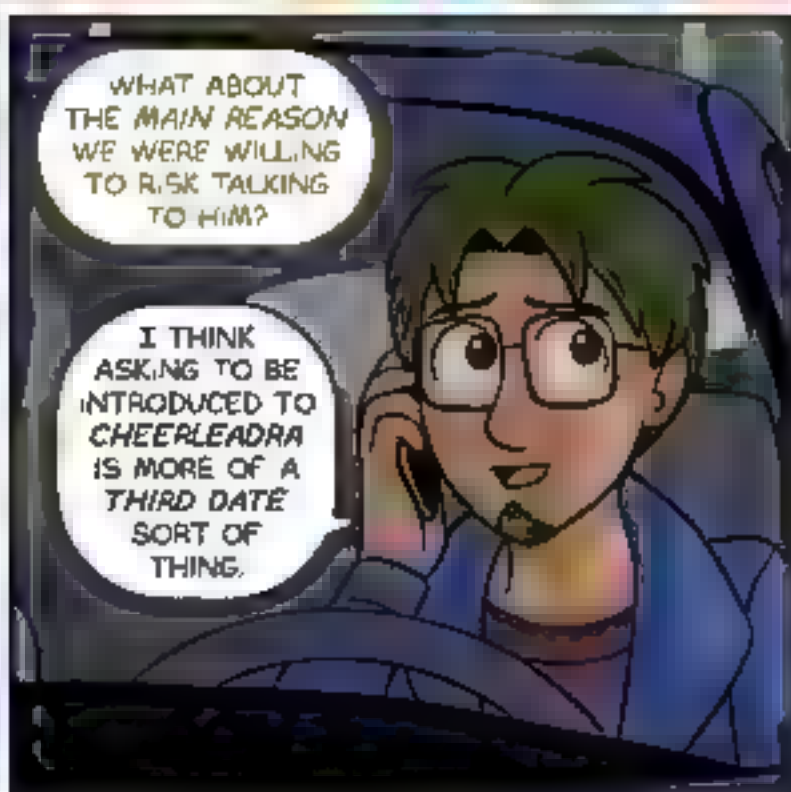
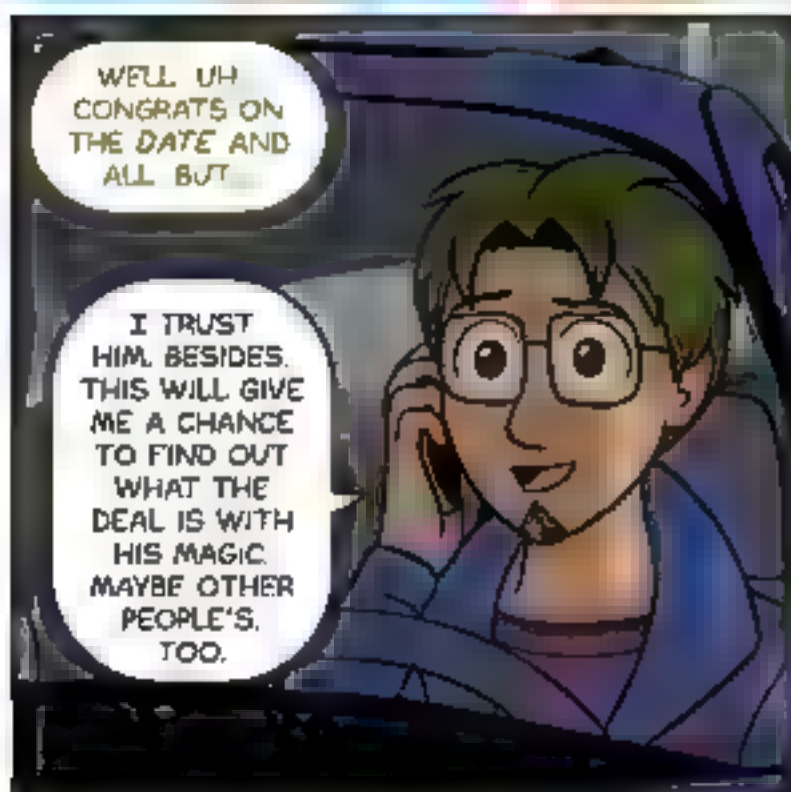
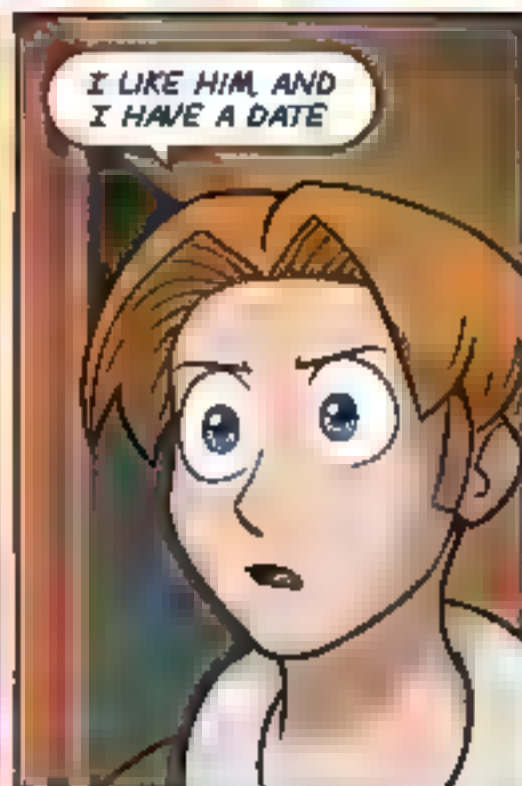
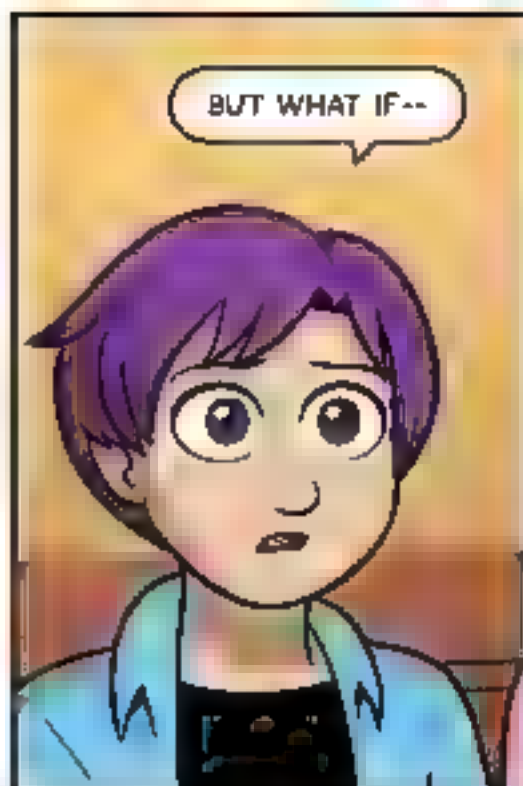
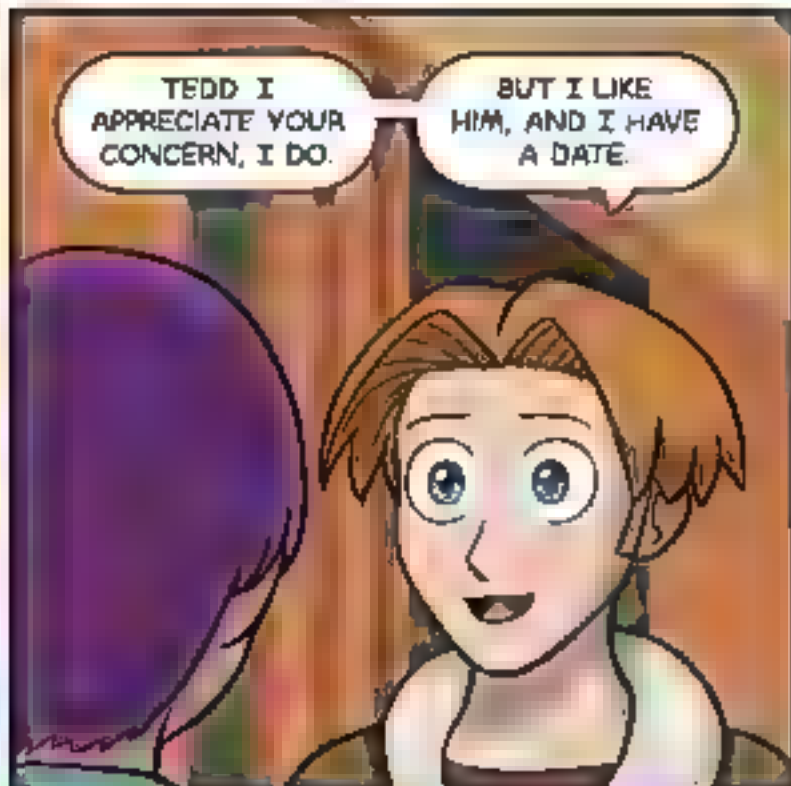
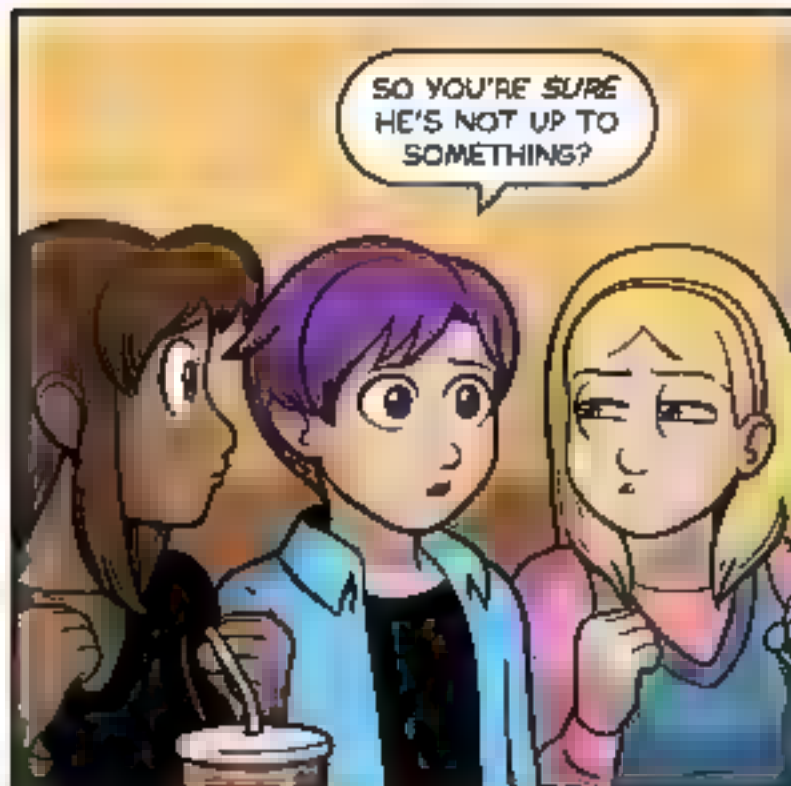
RIGHT WE DON'T KNOW WHEN TEDD GOT MARKED. BUT IT WAS PROBABLY VERY RECENTLY BECAUSE HE ACCIDENTALLY TURNED HIMSELF INTO A GIRL FOR A WHILE WHICH UNDOED HIS HAIR COLOR ENCHANTMENT

HAIR COLOR--GAH!






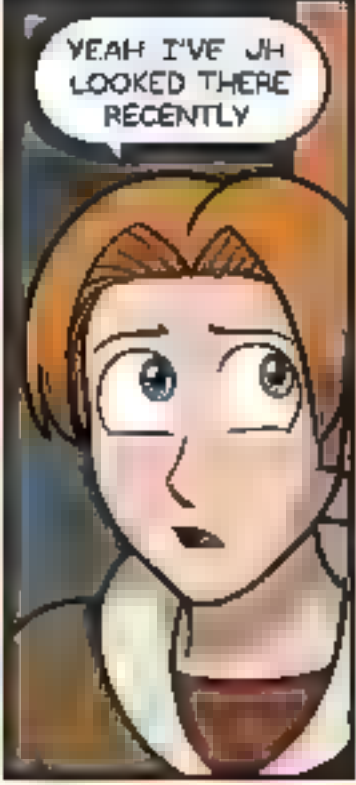




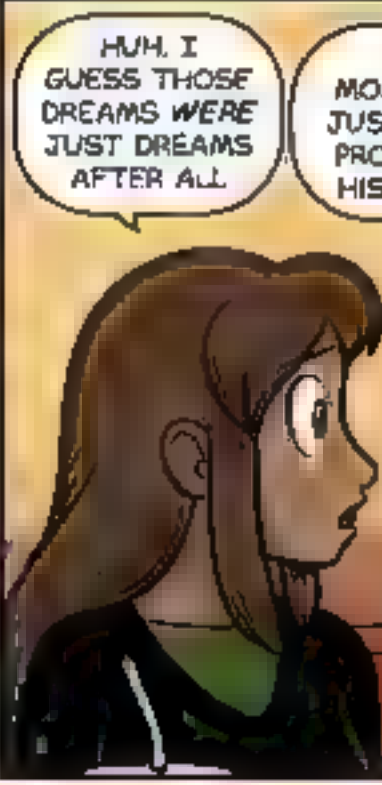





YOU'RE SURE YOU  
DON'T HAVE A MARK  
ON YOUR BACK?



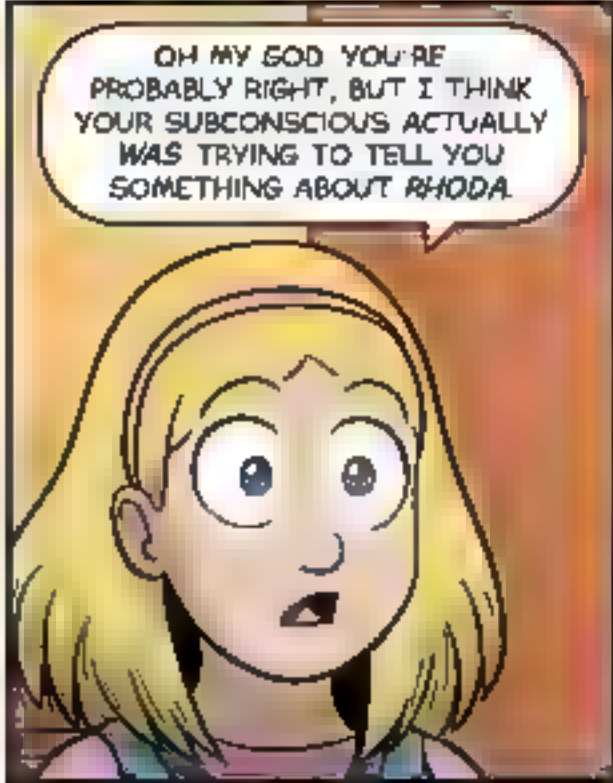
YEAH I'VE JH  
LOOKED THERE  
RECENTLY




HUH. I  
GUESS THOSE  
DREAMS WERE  
JUST DREAMS  
AFTER ALL



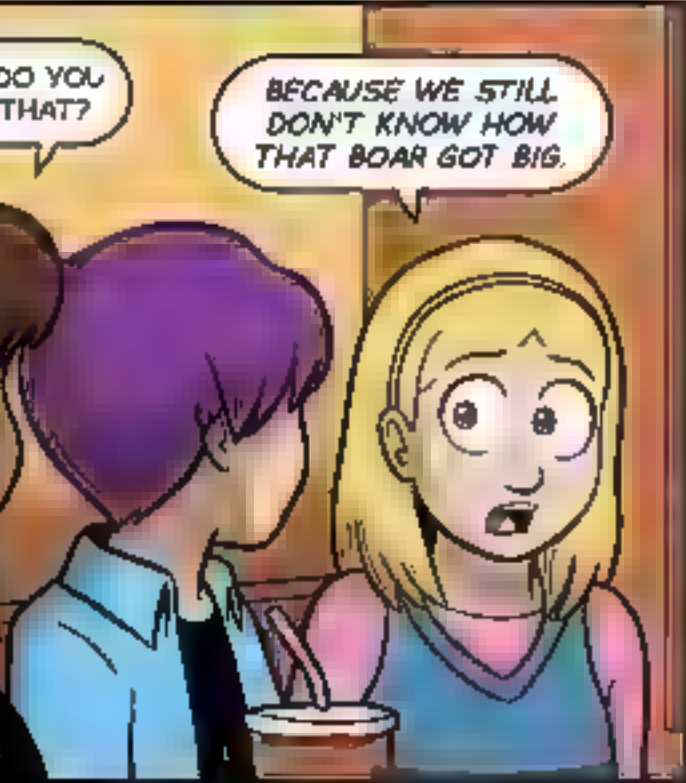
THAT WOULD BE THE  
MOST LOGICAL EXPLANATION.  
JUSTIN'S FIRE AURA DEALIE IS  
PROBABLY JUST A RESULT OF  
HIS MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING.



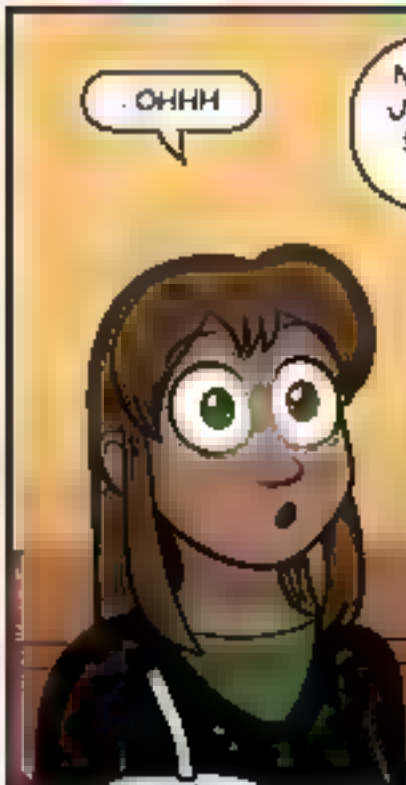
OH MY GOD YOU'RE  
PROBABLY RIGHT, BUT I THINK  
YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS ACTUALLY  
WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU  
SOMETHING ABOUT RHODA.




WHY DO YOU  
SAY THAT?




BECAUSE WE STILL  
DON'T KNOW HOW  
THAT BOAR GOT BIG.



OHMM



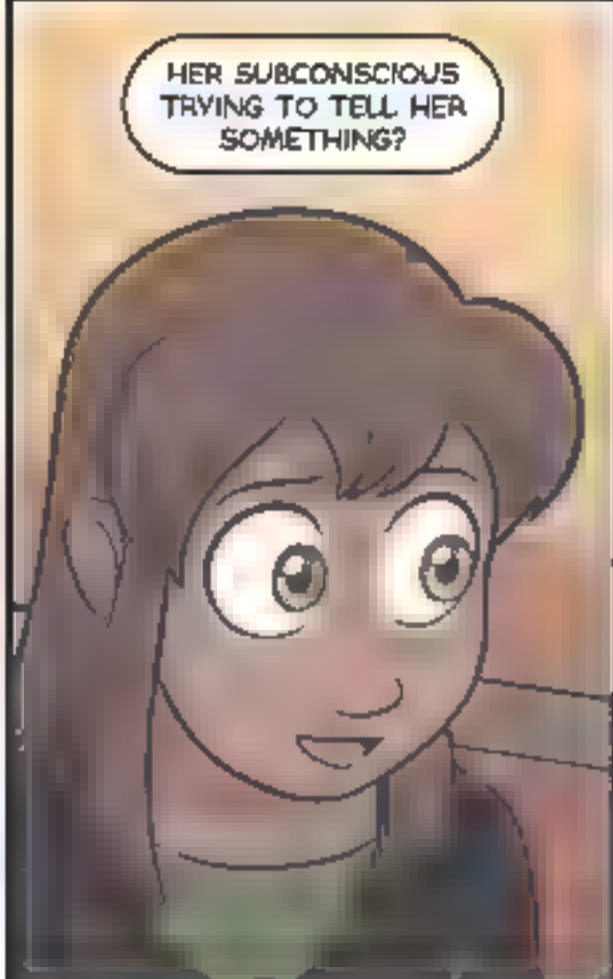
NEW SPELLS ARE OFTEN  
USED BY ACCIDENT... AND  
SHE WAS ALONE HOLY  
CRAP IT ADDS UP.



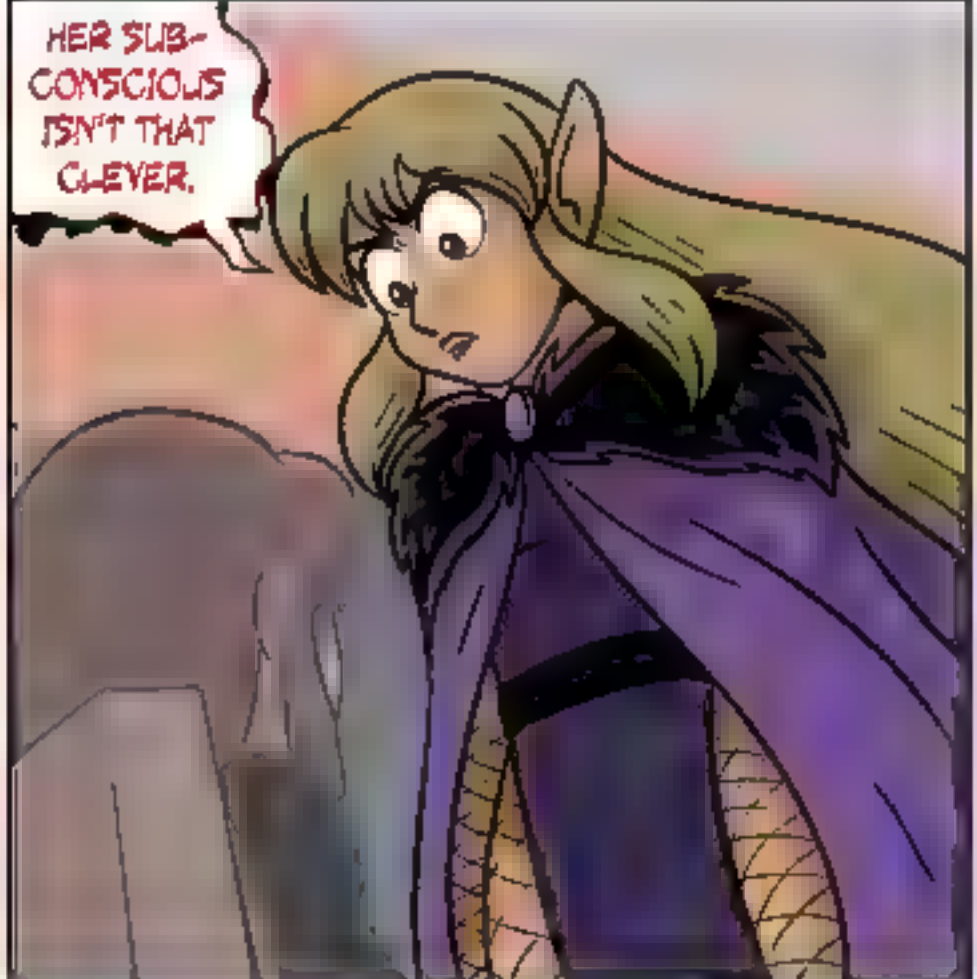
ARE YOU SURE  
YOU DON'T HAVE  
A MAGIC MARK?

I'LL DOUBLE  
CHECK LATER.

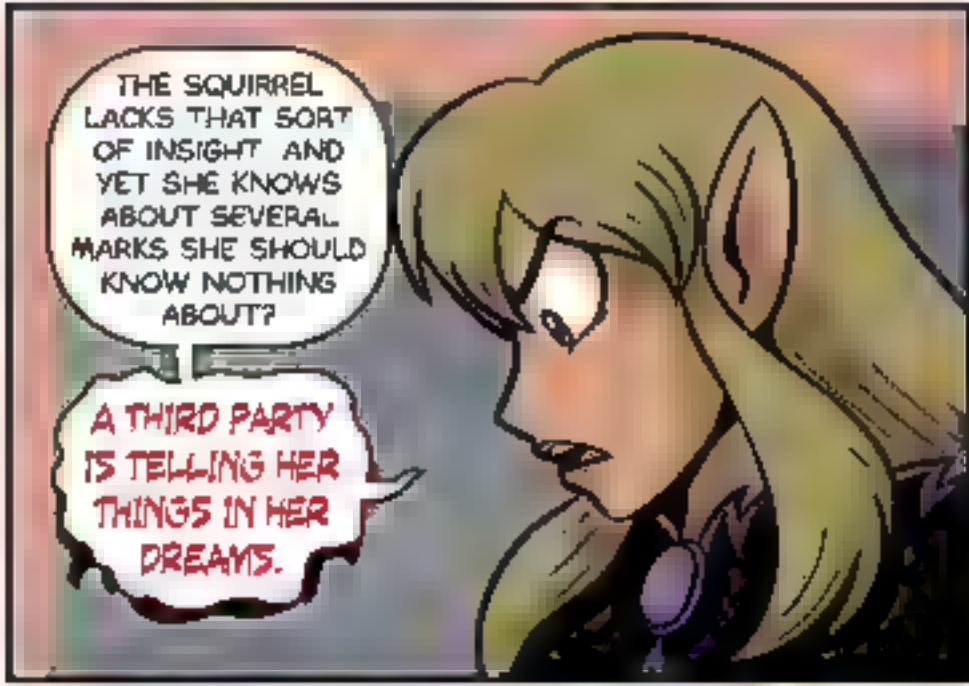




HER SUBCONSCIOUS  
TRYING TO TELL HER  
SOMETHING?




HER SUB-  
CONSCIOUS  
ISN'T THAT  
CLEVER.



THE SQUIRREL  
LACKS THAT SORT  
OF INSIGHT AND  
YET SHE KNOWS  
ABOUT SEVERAL  
MARKS SHE SHOULD  
KNOW NOTHING  
ABOUT?

A THIRD PARTY  
IS TELLING HER  
THINGS IN HER  
DREAMS.

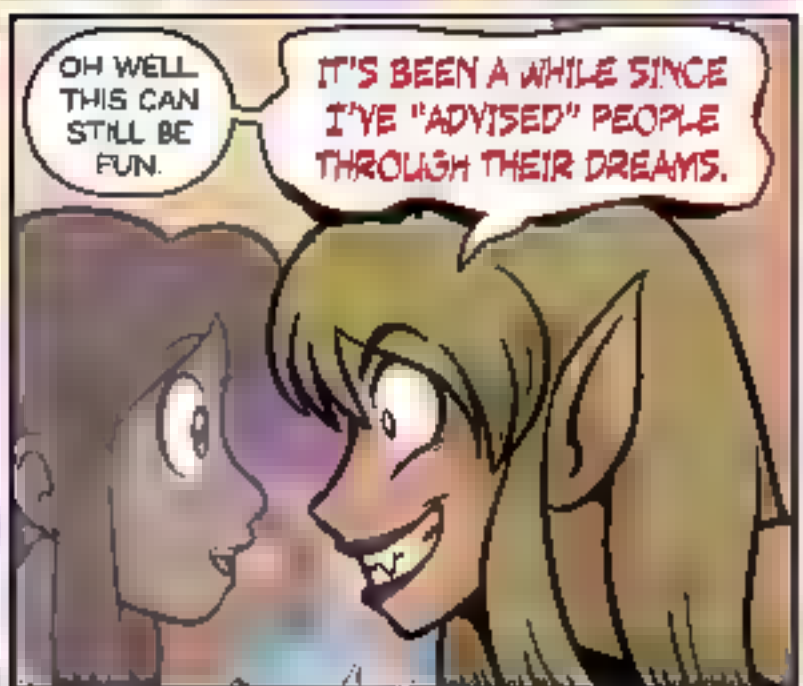


SOMEONE I KNOW  
NOTHING ABOUT!  
**DELIGHTFUL!**



SADLY I  
DO HAVE AN  
APOCALYPSE TO  
BRING ABOUT  
AND IT'S FOR  
FAMILY

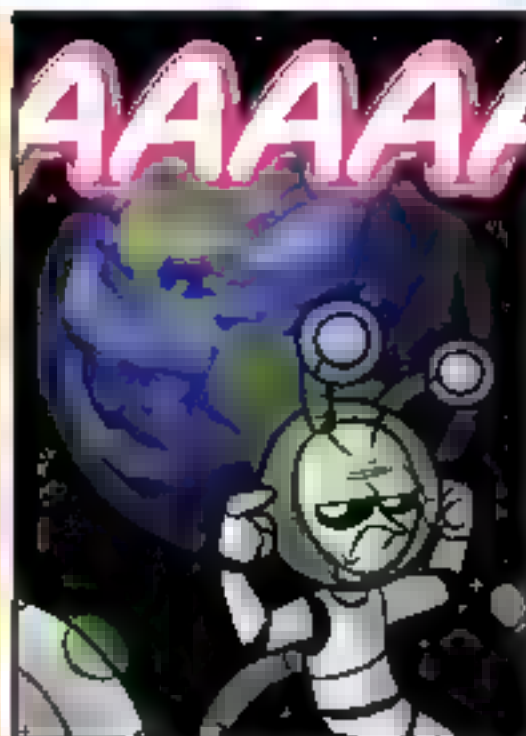
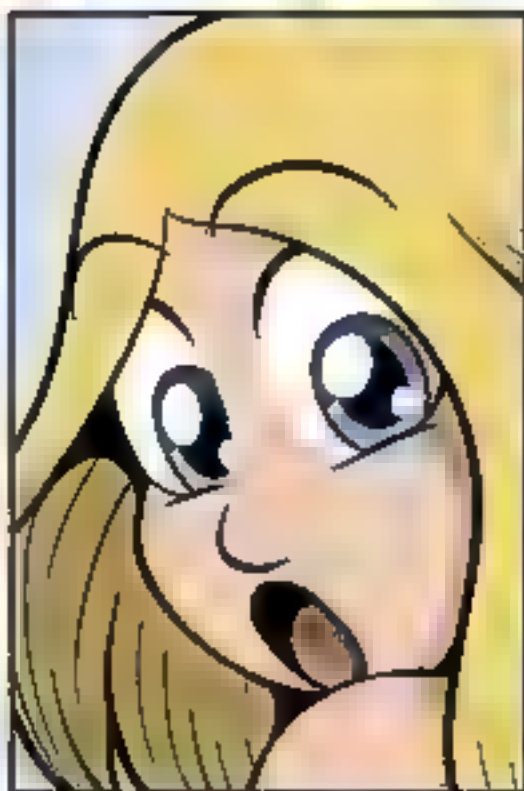
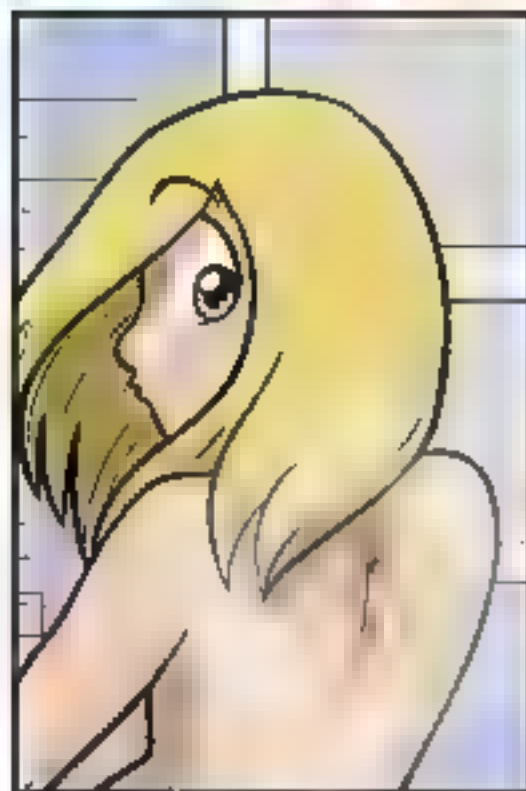
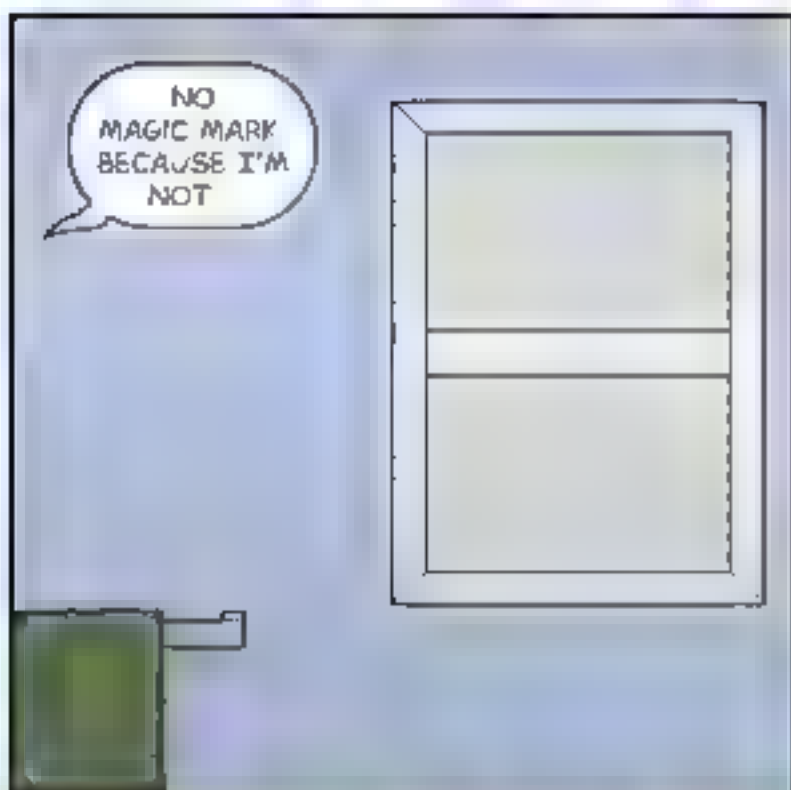
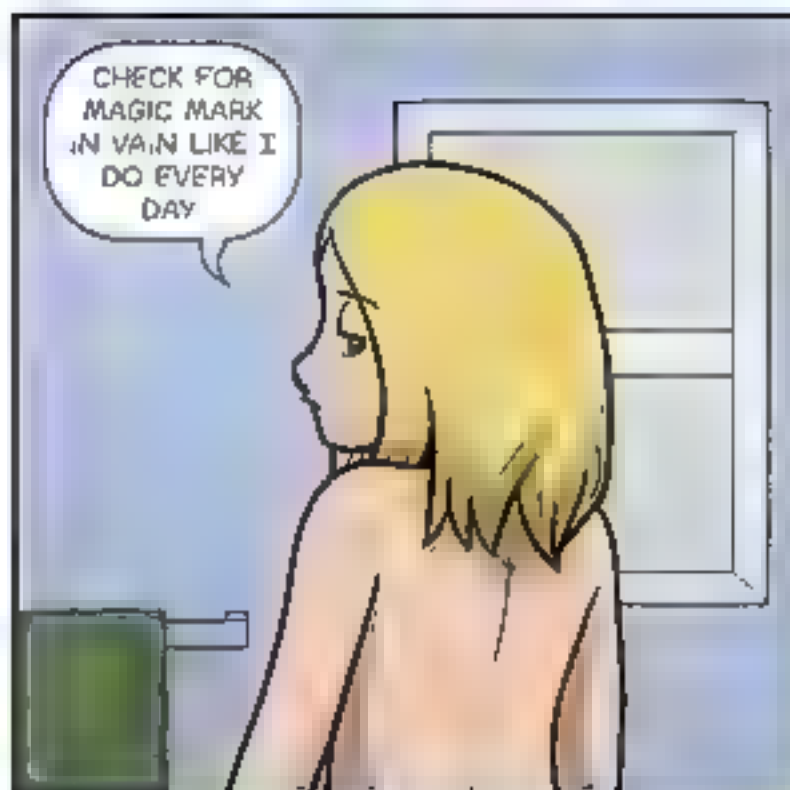
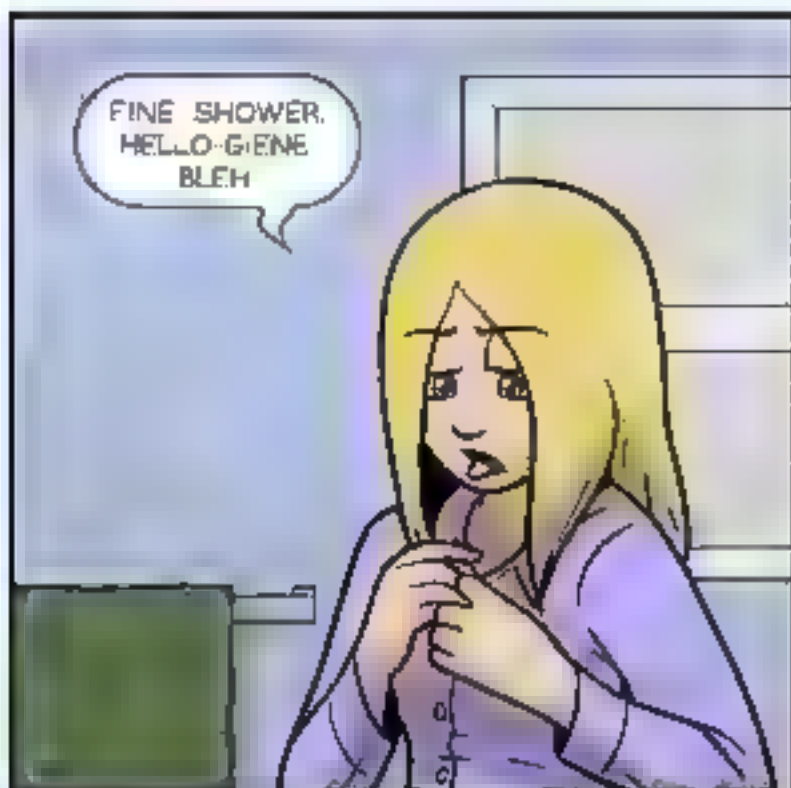
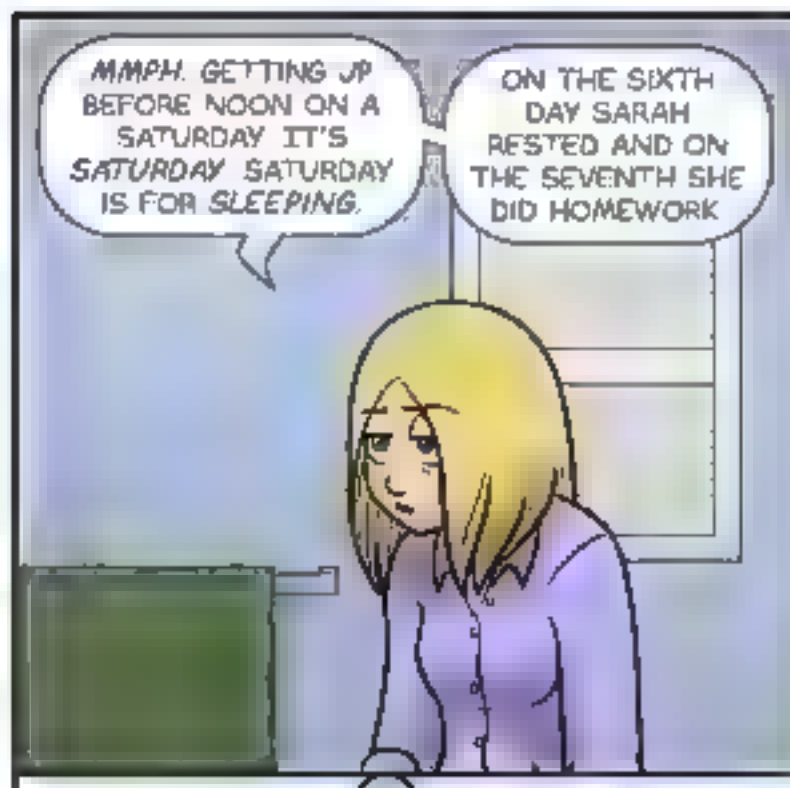
SIGH I'M  
GOING TO  
HAVE TO FIND  
OUT WHAT'S  
GOING ON.



OH WELL  
THIS CAN  
STILL BE  
FUN.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE  
I'VE "ADVISED" PEOPLE  
THROUGH THEIR DREAMS.





Squirrel Prophet - The end

Next Story Comic - March 2nd

EGS:NP, Sketchbooks, and Commentaries in the meantime.

See commentary below for more details about this Break / Not Break.









SO YEAH. UNLESS YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE WITH A DRESS CODE WEAR WHATEVER. HECK, WEAR SWEAT PANTS. IF HE DOESN'T ACCEPT YOU IN SWEAT PANTS, HE'S GARBAGE

I'M NOT WEARING SWEAT PANTS. AND WE'RE GOING TO THE MALL



THE MALL

YEAH

YOU'RE GOING ON A SATURDAY MALL DATE

UH. YEAH



WHY WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS.

WELL...



I'M OKAY WITH WHAT EVER FOR DINNER.

OH, AH... I DON'T REALLY KNOW A LOT OF PLACES. I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'D PICK.



ANYTHING'S FINE WITH ME REALLY WHAT-EVER YOU FEEL LIKE

I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO PICK EITHER.



MALL FOOD COURT?

SOUNDS GOOD!



OH GOD YOU'RE GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE COUPLES

WHAT?

I SAID YOU'RE DORKS



THE MALL ISN'T *JUST* A  
GOOD CHOICE FOR FOOD.  
THERE'S ALSO STUFF TO  
TALK ABOUT *EVERYWHERE*.  
AND WE'RE TRYING TO GET  
TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

FAIR POINT  
JUST STAY AWAY  
FROM THE BOOK  
STORE

WHY WOULD I NEED TO  
STAY AWAY FROM THE BOOK  
STORE BOOKS ARE GREAT  
THEY'RE FULL OF PAPER AND  
HAVE WORDS IN THEM.



OKAY YES'M  
I'LL AVOID THE  
BOOK STORE



**MEAN-  
WHILE!**

YOUR DATE  
IS AT THE  
MALL?

YEP



NICE

YEP AND I'LL BE WEARING  
THIS RANDOM BLACK SHIRT

GOOD  
CHOICE







SO AH, I  
DON'T SUPPOSE  
YOU HAVE ANY  
ADVICE?



WHAT,  
LIKE DATE  
ADVICE?

YEAH.

WHAT AM I GONNA  
TELL YOU THAT YOU DON'T  
ALREADY KNOW?



I DON'T KNOW YOU'VE BEEN DATING  
NANASE FOR A WHILE, THOUGH, AND  
YOU HAVE MEMORIES FROM ANOTHER  
UNIVERSE AND STUFF



HM... OKAY, HERE'S SOMETHING.  
ESTABLISH WHO'S TAKING THE  
LEAD BEFORE TRYING TO CATCH A  
BAD GUY YOU DON'T WANT TO BE  
TRIPPING ALL OVER EACH OTHER.

UH.  
WHAT?



ALSO, DON'T POUT  
AND MAKE PUPPY DOG  
FACES IN THE HOPE OF  
PITY-SEDUCING HER IF  
SHE TURNS OUT TO BE  
ASEXUAL. THAT'S NOT  
COOL, BRO

I'LL  
KEEP THAT  
IN MIND?



AND IF SHE CHANGES  
HER HAIR STYLE FOR  
THE LOVE OF GOD,  
SAY IT LOOKS GREAT

I DON'T THINK I  
NEED TO WORRY  
ABOUT

SAY IT LOOKS GREAT!





I'M SORRY  
THAT MOVIE WAS  
SO TERRIBLE

IT WASN'T  
THAT BAD.

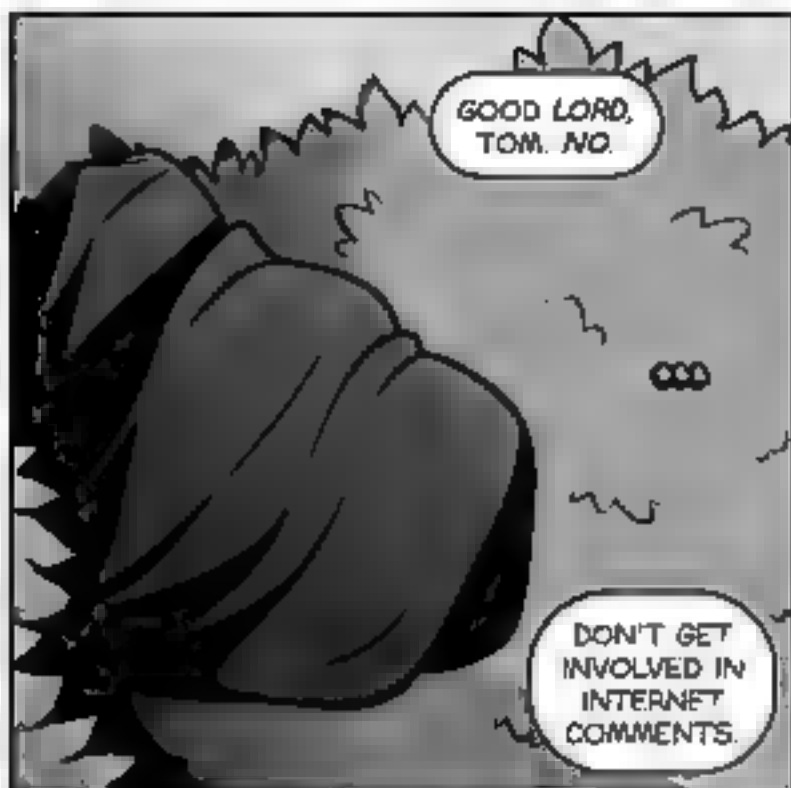


THE REVIEW I WATCHED SAID  
NOTHING OF HOW THE MOVIE  
TRIVIALIZED PEOPLE'S FEELINGS  
AND GLORIFIED PICKUP ARTISTS!

EH. A LOT  
OF COMEDIES  
DO THAT



I'M GOING TO LEAVE  
A STERN COMMENT ON  
THAT REVIEW I CAN  
TELL YOU THAT!



GOOD LORD,  
TOM. NO.

DON'T GET  
INVOLVED IN  
INTERNET  
COMMENTS.



PERHAPS  
YOU'RE RIGHT  
I--WAIT



A PUPPY IS  
IN DANGER.

AGAIN?



QUICKLY!  
WE MUST MAKE  
HASTE!

YOU ARE  
THE WORST BEST  
BOYFRIEND EVER!









ASHLEY SEEMS PRETTY  
NERVOUS. I WISH I  
KNEW WHAT TO SAY

I GUESS THAT'S  
NATURAL. THIS IS  
OUR FIRST DATE.

I GUESS  
A BETTER  
QUESTION IS  
WHY I'M  
NOT MORE  
NERVOUS?

I'M ON A DATE  
WITH SOMEONE  
I JUST MET  
THIS WEEK, AND  
I'M COOL AS A  
WATERMELON IN  
SUNGLASSES  
OVER HERE



IT MUST BE  
BECAUSE I ALREADY  
KNOW SHE LIKES ME  
FROM THE REVIEW  
SHOW AND SHE  
ALREADY KNOWS.  
AND LIKES, THAT I  
TURN INTO A GIRL!

WHAT'S TO  
BE NERVOUS  
ABOUT?

I MEAN, YEAH.  
SHOW-ME ISN'T  
EXACTLY ME ME.  
I'M NOT ACTING,  
BUT I AM "ON"  
FOR THE CAMERA,  
AND WE DO  
SOME EDITING.

WHAT SHE'S  
REALLY FAMILIAR  
WITH IS, LIKE, A  
COOLER HYPER-  
CHARGED VERSION  
OF ME.

AND SHE REALLY  
DID LIKE ME  
TRANSFORMING

LIKE,  
A LOT

IS SHE  
BISEXUAL? DOES  
SHE WANT TO  
DO THINGS  
WITH ME WHILE  
I'M A GIRL?

IS, THAT  
SOMETHING  
I WANT?









WE'RE AT  
THE MALL!



AND I'M STILL A  
MARSHMALLOW!



I KNOW HE THINKS MY  
COAT IS CUTE BUT THE  
SUPER CUTE OUTFIT UNDER  
IT IS SUPER CUTE!



IS IT OKAY IF  
I LEAVE MY COAT  
IN YOUR CAR?

IF YOU WANT  
TO BUT IT'S COLD  
OUT THERE



IT'S COLD OUT  
THERE, BUT IT'S  
WARM IN THE MALL.  
A QUICK WALK IN  
THE COLD IS WORTH  
NOT BEING TOO  
WARM IN THE  
MALL, RIGHT?

HUH THAT'S A  
GOOD POINT WE'RE  
GONNA BE INSIDE  
WAY LONGER THAN  
OUTSIDE



EXACTLY!

HECK, I'M GOING  
TO LEAVE MY COAT IN  
THE CAR, TOO!

SMART  
MOVE!



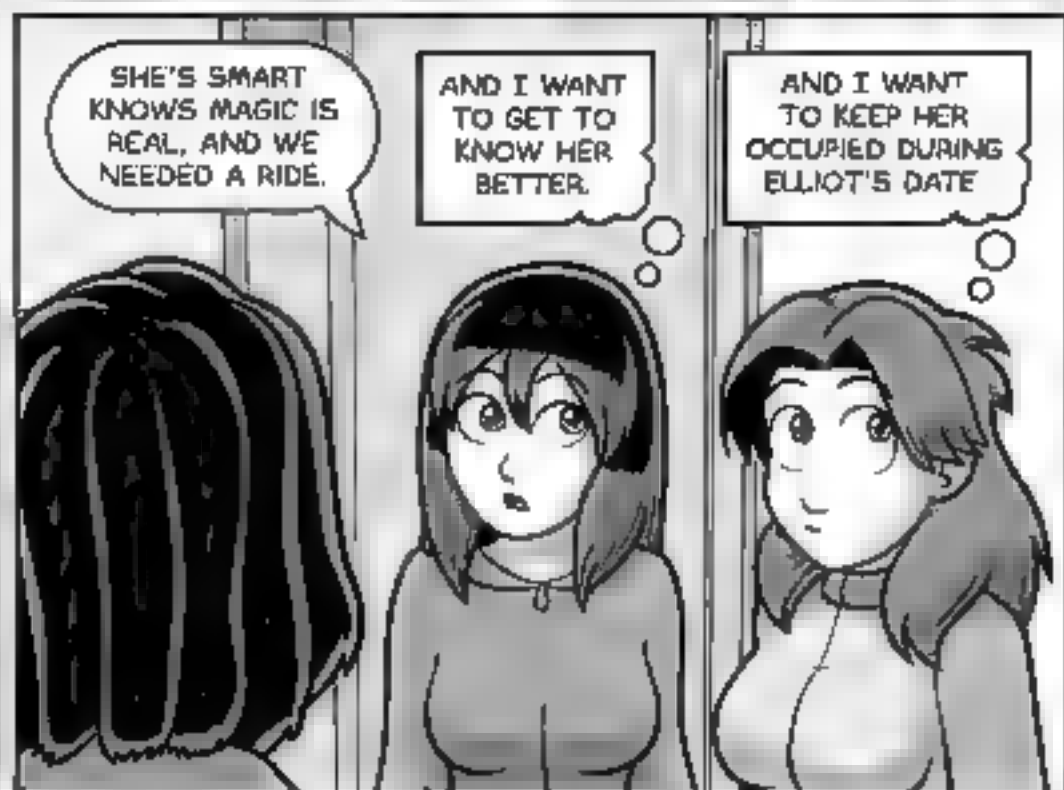
Y Y YOUR  
O-OUTFIT I-IS  
S-SUPER CUTE.

TH-THANKS!

**YES**









FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE SIGHTINGS THROUGHOUT MOPERVILLE AND NEIGHBORING AREAS OF A SPOOKY CLOAKED FIGURE WITH A FEMININE, BUT SOMEWHAT SPOOKY, VOICE

MORE SPECIFICALLY A COUPLE OF WITNESSES DESCRIBED HER VOICE AS SOUNDING LIKE A LOW FEMININE GROWL.

SHE'S TALKED TO PEOPLE?

SHE'S SAID VERY LITTLE. MOST OF THE TIME, SHE'S SIMPLY FLED AFTER BEING SEEN.

OTHER TIMES, HOWEVER, SHE'S SHOWN HERSELF LONG ENOUGH TO ASK YOUNG ADULT MEN THEIR NAMES BEFORE RUNNING OFF

THIS SOUNDS "SPOOKY" AND ALL, CHARLOTTE BUT IT ALSO SOUNDS LIKE SOME JACKASS IN A CLOAK

IT'S PROBABLY JUST A DUMB PRANK

I WOULD HAVE AGREED WITH YOU, DIANE, PRIOR TO TWO DAYS AGO WHICH WAS WHEN PEOPLE FINALLY GOT PICTURES OF HER.

...OKAY YEEEAH, THAT DOES NOT LOOK RIGHT

OKAY! SO WHERE DO WE  
START OUR SPOOKY MAYBE-  
LADY IN A CLOAK HUNT?



BY READING THESE  
VARIOUS ARTICLES I'M  
ABOUT TO E MAIL TO YOU  
THREE AND FIGURING OUT  
WHATEVER WE CAN.



DIANE, I  
WILL NEED  
YOUR E-MAIL  
ADDRESS.

WE'RE  
JUST GOING  
TO READ?



AND SHARE DEAS, BRAIN-  
STORM, ETCETERA. I CAN PRINT  
OUT THE ARTICLES IF YOU'D  
FIND THAT EASIER TO READ.



IT'S NOT EXCITING. BUT  
CHARLOTTE'S RIGHT WE  
NEED TO FIGURE OUT  
WHAT HER DEAL IS AND  
WHERE SHE MIGHT BE.

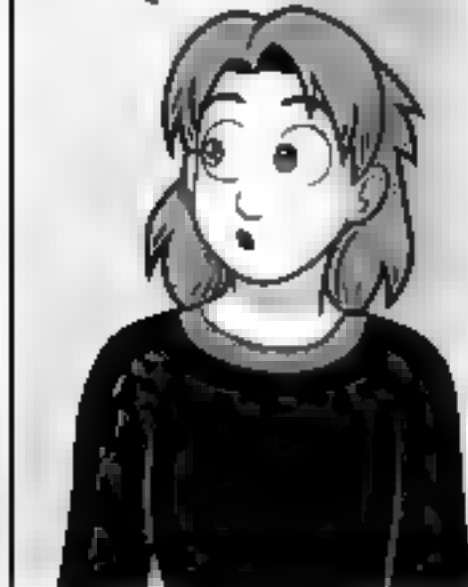


WHAT DID YOU THINK  
WE WERE GOING TO DO?  
RUN AROUND *RANDOM*  
PLACES UNTIL WE BUMP  
INTO THAT THING?

BUT  
READING,  
THOUGH.



OH HEY A BOOKSTORE!  
WE SHOULD REMEMBER WHERE  
THAT IS FOR AFTER WE EAT



EEP.





THIS IS THE PART OF OUR DATE WHEN I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING CLEVER ABOUT THE WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD BEFORE US BECAUSE IT'S OUR FIRST DATE AND I WANT TO SOUND CLEVER. BUT I'M TOO HUNGRY

FOOD.

HA HA HA HA

I WAS THINKING OF EITHER GETTING CHICKEN TERIYAK, FROM THE JAPANESE PLACE.

EHH, CHILLAX KNEE JERK REACTION HE'S NOT TRYING TO IMPRESS ME BY CHOOSING ASIAN FOOD.

OR MAYBE ORANGE CHICKEN FROM THE CHINESE PLACE

AT LEAST I DON'T THINK HE IS? HE WOULDN'T RIGHT?


OR PIZZA FROM THE--

I'M FROM CALIFORNIA!

--ITALIAN... PLACE?

DOPS.

UH... I LIKE PASTA?




I... THINK  
THEY HAVE  
PASTA...?

I'M SORRY I  
HAD A KNEE-JERK  
REACTION TO YOU  
LISTING ASIAN  
PLACES.




HALF THE FOOD  
PLACES HERE ARE  
ASIAN.

I KNOW IT'S  
JUST... A LOT  
OF PEOPLE HAVE  
MADE A LOT OF  
ASSUMPTIONS  
ABOUT ME AND  
MY FAMILY



MY FAMILY'S BEEN IN  
AMERICA FOR GENERATIONS  
AND MY ACCENT IS TOTALLY  
AMERICAN AND SOME  
PEOPLE *STILL* ACT LIKE I  
MUST'VE JUST GOTTEN OFF  
THE BUS FROM ASIA!




SOMEONE ONCE BUMPED  
INTO ME AND TOLD ME TO  
LEARN ENGLISH. I *ONLY*  
KNOW ENGLISH! I TRIED TO  
LEARN SPANISH, BUT I KEPT  
FALLING ASLEEP IN CLASS!



I'M SORRY I  
DIDN'T THINK  
ABOUT WHAT  
LISTING THOSE  
FIRST MIGHT  
SOUND LIKE

NO. I'M  
SORRY YOU  
DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
WRONG. IT  
WAS JUST A  
KNEE-JERK  
REACTION.



IT'S ALL GOOD.  
PEOPLE CAN  
REALLY BE THAT  
BAD ABOUT IT?

YOU'D BE AMAZED  
HOW MANY PEOPLE  
ASSUME I'M SOME  
SORT OF MAGICAL  
MARTIAL ARTIST



**ACHOO!**

EW.



THIS CLOAKED JERK'S BEEN ALL OVER THE PLACE! MAYBE ONE OF THE *THREE GENIUSES* I'M SURROUNDED BY WILL FIND A PATTERN IN THIS MESS, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO.

I REALLY *WOULD* HAVE A BETTER CHANCE JUST CHECKING RANDOM PLACES.

...

HELL, *ELLIOT* HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF FINDING HER THAN I DO! AT LEAST HE'S OUT IN PUBLIC SOMEWHERE!

THE PROBLEM WITH ITALIAN FOOD IS THE TEMPTATION TO ORDER MY WEIGHT IN GARLIC BREAD.

MAYBE WE COULD SPLIT A YOU-SIZED LOAF?

**BZZ BZZ**

UH, HANG ON, I THINK I JUST GOT A TEXT?

Hey, Elliot! If you see some big weird cloaked thing, text me, okay? Thanks

**BZZ BZZ**

And try to get a picture of it! D

**BZZ BZZ**

Compliment Ashley's hair >^\_^

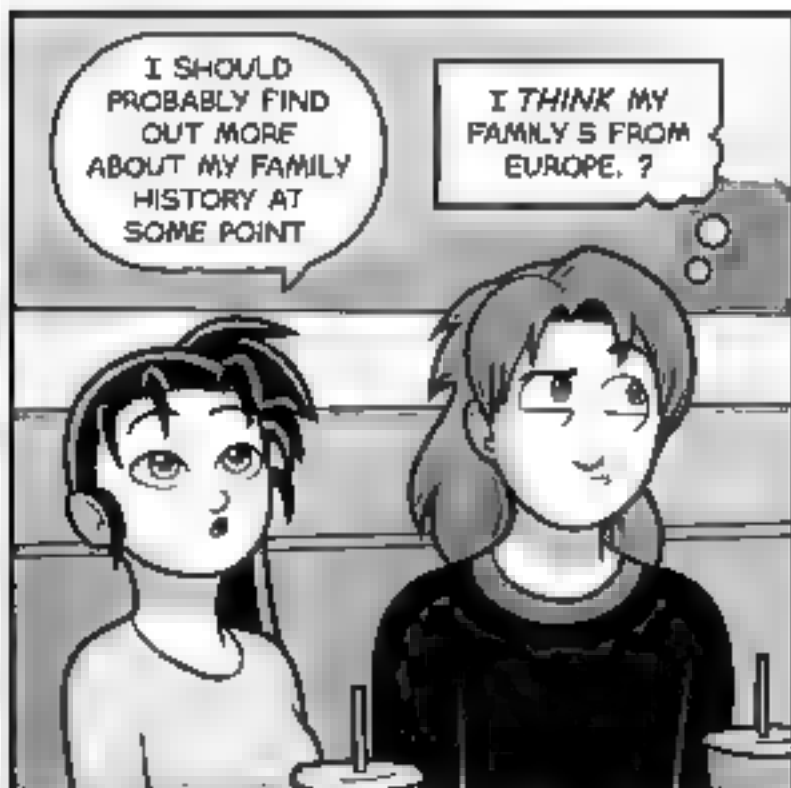
EVERYTHING OKAY?

THANK YOU!

PROBABLY? I LIKE YOUR HAIR.









ACTUALLY YEAH,  
THAT DOES SOUND  
PRETTY COOL.



ANYWAY I'M NOT PLAYING  
ON ANY TEAMS OR ANY-  
THING THIS YEAR. I LOVE  
THEM. BUT THOSE ON TOP  
OF BEING A SENIOR IN HIGH  
SCHOOL... AAAAA! A BIT  
MUCH, YOU KNOW?

YOU DON'T WANT  
TO DO SOCCER  
OR BALLET AS  
A JOB?



PROFESSIONALLY? NO. HEH,  
I I'M NOT AN ATHLETE I  
MEAN, I'M OKAY AT BOTH.  
BUT.. I'M NOT SURE WHAT I  
WANT TO DO FOR A CAREER.  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU  
WANT TO DO YET?



...I'M NOT SURE  
I... I HAVEN'T REALLY  
THOUGHT ABOUT IT



WHAT AM I GOING  
TO DO WITH MY LIFE? I  
CAN'T THINK OF ANY-  
THING I WANT TO DO  
THAT I'D BE GOOD AT!



UH...

I GUESS I'D BE A GOOD *BOUNCER*,  
BUT I DON'T WANT TO KEEP  
PEOPLE OUT OF CLUBS! EVERYONE  
DESERVES A CHANCE TO GET  
FUNKY ON THE DANCE FLOOR!



I HAD AN  
INTERNET  
GIRLFRIEND  
ONCE!

ZA-BUH-  
WHA ZAP?



WE WERE BASICALLY JUST AN INNOCENT BARELY OLD ENOUGH TO DATE COUPLE WHO SAID SWEET THINGS AND ROLEPLAYED LIKE WE HAD TRANSFORMATION POWERS. BUT YEAH. INTERNET GIRLFRIEND.

THAT'S, UH.

FEEL FREE TO IMAGINE AN OLDER VERSION OF ME IN THAT SITUATION.

OH, UH. THANK YOU. I MEAN, NO, I MEAN.. WHAT DO I MEAN?

I EVENTUALLY BROKE IT OFF WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT I WAS ONLY EVER GOING TO KNOW HER BY HER SCREEN NAME. BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT

RIGHT OF COURSE...THERE'S A POINT?

WELL, IT'S. I GUESS IT'S JUST THAT I LIKE TRANSFORMATION STUFF, AND. I CAN FIND BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ATTRACTIVE

OH. SO. UH YOU'RE BISEXUAL?

I.. I WOULDN'T PUT IT THAT WAY

BUT YOU JUST SAID...

I KNOW IT'S JUST ~~SIGH~~ POSSIBLY ANNOYING THING ABOUT ME. I DON'T LIKE LABELS, OR BOXING THINGS DOWN TO ONE WORD.

WHAT ABOUT "CUTE"?

THAT'S OKAY

I THINK I SEE  
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.  
LABELS ENCOURAGE  
ASSUMPTIONS AND  
STUFF AND THEY'RE  
ANNOYING, AND YOU  
ARE WHO YOU ARE  
REGARDLESS.

THAT AND PEOPLE  
GET INTO ARGUMENTS  
WHERE EVERYONE  
BASICALLY AGREES  
WITH EACH OTHER,  
BUT THEY DON'T  
REALIZE IT BECAUSE  
NOBODY'S DEFINED  
THE ONE WORD THE  
ARGUMENT HINGES ON.

"IS THIS VIDEO GAME RACIST? LET'S  
BASICALLY ARGUE ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF  
'RACIST' FOR AN HOUR WHILE ALL AGREEING  
ON THE ACTUAL CONTENT OF THE GAME!"

YOU'VE DEALT WITH  
THIS SORT OF THING A  
LOT, HAVEN'T YOU?

GIRL SOCCER  
PLAYER? THAT  
EXPLAINS A LOT

A BALLERINA  
DOES NOT SAY  
SUCH THINGS!

YOU JUST  
DON'T WANT TO  
COMMIT TO BEING  
A LESBIAN.

YOU  
COULD SAY  
THAT

LOOK OUT,  
EVERYONE!  
ASIAN  
STUDENT  
DRIVER!

YOU'RE JUST A  
HETEROSEXUAL  
WHO WANTS  
ATTENTION.

GIRLS AREN'T  
HARDCORE  
ENOUGH TO  
PLAY MARIO  
KART

TODAY'S DEBATE  
TOPIC: "GEEK OR  
NERD: WHICH IS  
BETTER?"

I SORTA WANT TO GIVE  
YOU A SYMPATHY HUG NOW,  
BUT IT'S OUR FIRST DATE, AND  
I'LL UNDERSTAND IF.

**GLOMP!**



PIZZA. PIZZA FOR  
THE BRAIN.



DOES THIS MEAN  
YOU'RE GOING TO  
ACTUALLY START  
INVESTIGATING LIKE  
THE REST OF US?



LOOK, WE ALL KNOW IF  
ONE OF US IS GOING TO FIND  
SOMETHING USEFUL IN THIS  
MESS, IT ISN'T GOING TO BE  
ME. I'M HERE FOR WHEN YOU  
WANT SOMETHING PUNCHED.



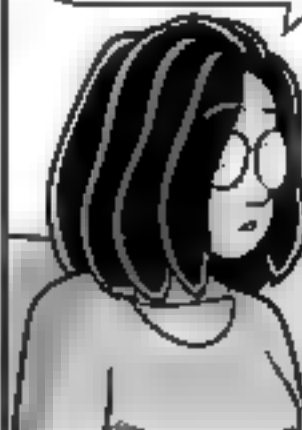
YOU'RE NOT  
GIVING YOURSELF  
ENOUGH CREDIT  
ELLEN. YOU  
COULD NOTICE  
SOMETHING  
WE'D MISS.



NOTICE WHAT?  
THIS CLOAKED GIRL'S  
INCONSISTENT AS HECK.  
I CAN'T MAKE HEADS  
OR TAILS OF HER.



SHE SEEMS CONSISTENT TO ME. SHE  
IMMEDIATELY RUNS WHEN SPOTTED  
UNLESS ASKING FOR SOMEONE'S NAME.



YEAH, SHE'S A SUPER STEALTH NINJA  
WHO'S ONLY SEEN WHILE ASKING SOME  
ONE'S NAME. EXCEPT FOR ALL THE TIMES  
SHE'S LEFT HERSELF TOTALLY VISIBLE ON  
THE EDGES OF ROOFTOPS AND STUFF?

EITHER SHE SLACKS  
OFF WHEN THERE ISN'T  
SOMEONE SHE WANTS  
TO QUESTION AROUND  
OR THERE'S TWO OF HER.  
AND ONE'S WAY BETTER  
AT SNEAKING THAN  
THE OTHER.



WHAT? DID I  
GET SAUCE ON  
MY SHIRT?





ASSUMING THERE ARE TWO OF THEM, HOW DO WE PROCEED?

ZA?



IF EVERY INSTANCE OF NAME ASKING IS ONE CLOAKED FIGURE AND EVERY INSTANCE WITHOUT IS ANOTHER, WE SHOULD ORGANIZE THOSE ENCOUNTERS SEPARATELY



THEN WE CAN DETERMINE IF THE TIMING AND LOCATIONS OF THE INCIDENTS SUPPORT THERE BEING TWO OF THEM, AND HOPEFULLY NARROW DOWN WHERE EITHER OF THEM ARE LIKELY TO BE



I AGREE DIVIDING THE ENCOUNTERS IS A ONE WOMAN JOB YOU THREE CAN DEVOUR PIZZA WHILE I TAKE CARE OF IT

GOOD WORK ELLEN.

SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU

YEAH. SO STOP BEING LAZY



SO. WHAT YOU ALL THINK I'M RIGHT ABOUT THERE BEING TWO OF THEM?

IT SURE WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT IF THERE WERE TWO OF THEM.

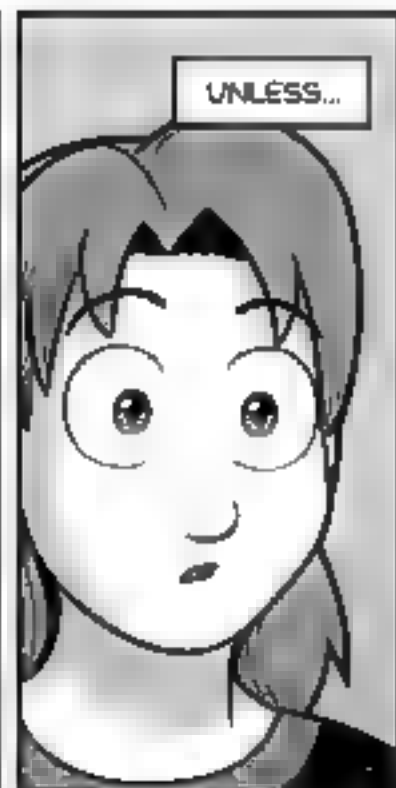


SHOOT I'M GOING TO BE LAZY ALL THE TIME FOREVER NOW IT GETS RESULTS.

**NAME**







SORRY! SORRY! I WASN'T GOING TO ASK ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE THAT ON OUR FIRST DATE BUT UH

WELL FOR YOU TO JUMP TO THAT CONCLUSION I SORTA SUGGESTS YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH PEOPLE HAVING MAGIC POWERS AND STUFF RIGHT?

UH...

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CONCLUSION JUMP, YOU DIOT!

SERIOUSLY THE WRITING IN SOME OF THESE OLD SITCOMS.

MEREOW?

YOU SAID IT JEREMY

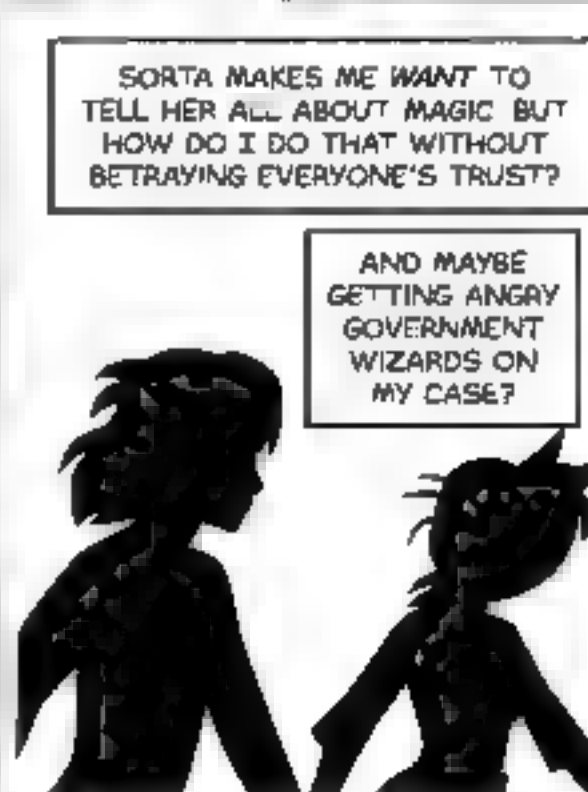
I UH, THERE'S STUFF I CAN TELL YOU BUT UH.

WHY DON'T WE JUST GO TO THE COOKIE PLACE FOR DESSERT INSTEAD FOR NOW?

I LIKE COOKIES...

COOKIES ARE GOOD!





WHEN WE DIVIDE THE ENCOUNTERS BY STEALTH AND NOT SO STEALTH. THE STEALTH ENCOUNTERS ARE WIDELY SCATTERED. SHE'S BEEN SEEN IN MOPERVILLE AND NEIGHBORING AREAS, AND THERE'S NO REAL PATTERN TO IT OTHER THAN MOPERVILLE BEING ROUGHLY IN THE MIDDLE OF HER SIGHTINGS.



MEANWHILE NOT SO STEALTH HAS ONLY BEEN SEEN IN MOPERVILLE. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO NARROW DOWN WHERE THEY SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME



"THEY"? THAT ONLY NARROWS DOWN NOT SO STEALTH.

I MEANT IT AS A GENDER NEUTRAL SINGULAR DUE TO NOT SO STEALTH HAVING NEVER SPOKEN.



WE HAVEN'T REALLY CONFIRMED THERE'S TWO OF THEM. THERE COULD BE ONE CLOAKED FIGURE WHO ONLY PUTS THEIR GAME FACE ON WHEN THEY'RE OUT LOOKING FOR WHATEVER.



WE'RE NOT SURE THERE'S TWO OF THEM, BUT WE ARE SURE STEALTH'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

SOMEONE REMEMBER? SHE'S ASKING PEOPLE'S NAMES.

AND IF THERE ARE TWO OF THEM, SHE'S PRESUMABLY NOT LOOKING FOR THE OTHER ONE.

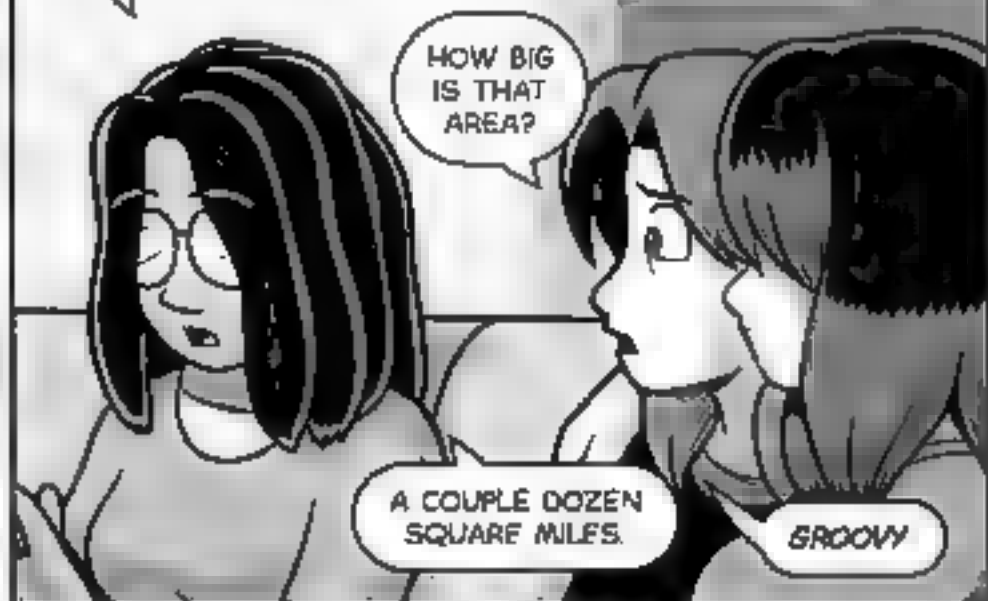


BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO MISTAKE SOME DUDE FOR A WEIRD THING IN A CLOAK.



SO THERE'S ONE OR TWO OF THEM, AND THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIFIC, BUT THEY ONLY HAVE A VAGUE IDEA WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE AND WHERE THEY ARE

EITHER WAY IF WE LIMIT OUR ANALYSIS TO THE AREA WHERE NOT SO STEALTH'S BEEN SEEN, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY'RE LIKELY TO BE



HOW BIG IS THAT AREA?

A COUPLE DOZEN SQUARE MILES.

GROOVY







I WANT TO KNOW EVERY  
THING YOU COULD TELL ME.

I REALLY REALLY  
WANT TO KNOW I BET  
IT'S AMAZING AND  
AWESOME AND—

SETTLE  
SETTLE  
DOWN,  
ASHLEY

BUT ONE OF  
THE REASONS I  
LIKE YOU SO MUCH  
IS HOW GOOD A  
PERSON YOU ARE.

I DON'T EVER  
WANT YOU TO DO  
ANYTHING WRONG  
ON MY ACCOUNT

I... I TRY TO BE  
A GOOD PERSON,  
YEAH. OKAY

I WON'T TELL YOU  
ANYTHING I'M NOT  
SURE ABOUT

THANK YOU

THOUGH I'M PRETTY SURE I'M  
NOT BETRAYING ANYONE'S TRUST  
BY TELLING YOU ABOUT ALL MY OWN  
TRANSFORMATION ABILITIES.

ABILITIES?  
PLURAL?

I CAN MOSTLY ONLY TURN INTO A GIRL BUT  
I CAN CHOOSE WHAT I LOOK LIKE WHEN I DO  
I CAN CHANGE MY CLOTHES A LOT TOO

REALLY?

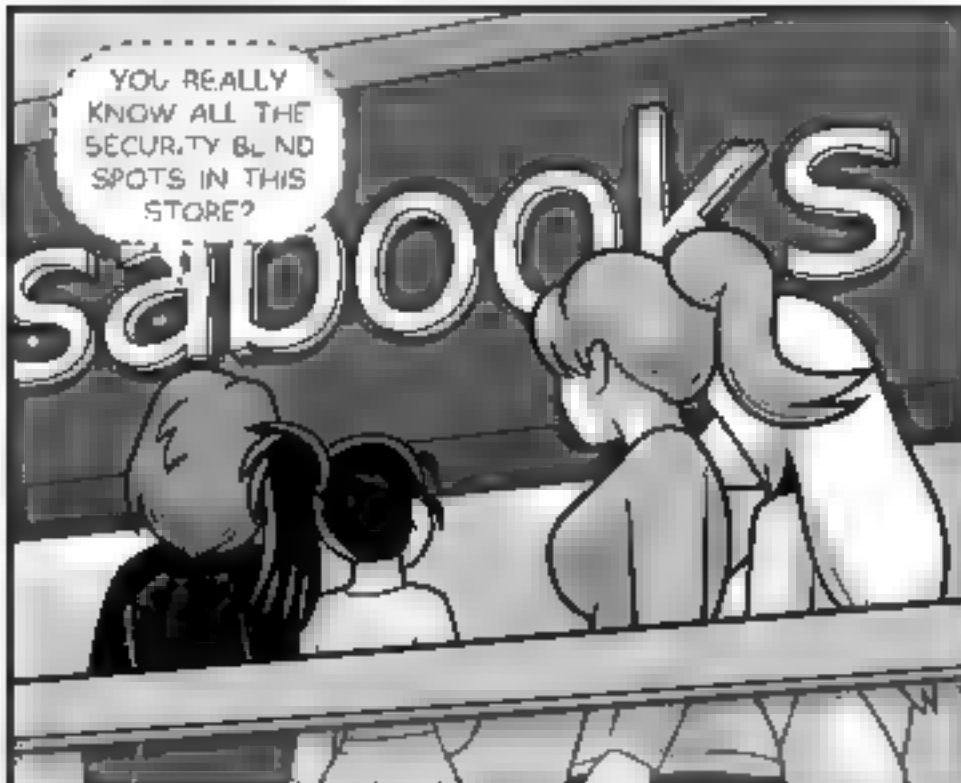
YEAH

WOW









YOU REALLY  
KNOW ALL THE  
SECURITY BLIND  
SPOTS IN THIS  
STORE?

YEAH  
PRETTY SURE  
I USUALLY BUY  
ANY BOOKS I  
ZONE OUT  
ON

I'M NOT  
JUDGING I  
JUST YOU  
KNOW WANNA  
BE SURE

THOUGH  
THAT IS  
GOOD



RIGHT RIGHT  
THIS IS A BIT  
OF A CAPER  
ISN'T IT?

IT IS A BIT  
MISCHIEVOUS  
AND NAUGHTY



MAYBE WE  
SHOULDN'T  
DO IT

IT'S PROBABLY A  
BAD IDEA BUT IT'S  
EXCITING AND I  
DO WANT TO



WELL LET'S  
DO IT THEN LIVE  
ON THE EDGE! BE  
REBELS

YEAH!



WE'D BETTER  
FINISH OUR COOKIES  
FIRST THERE'S NO  
FOOD OR DRINKS  
ALLOWED IN THERE

RIGHT



WAIT. I'M SORRY I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU'RE NARROWING DOWN POSSIBLE LOCATIONS.



THE CLOAKED FIGURE IN THAT PICTURE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE HUMAN. MAKING IT UNLIKELY THEY HAVE A RESIDENCE OR HOTEL ROOM TO RETURN TO.

WITHOUT MUCH ELSE TO GO ON, I'M ASSUMING THEY'LL ROUTINELY RETURN TO A LOCATION THAT RELIABLY PROVIDES FOOD, WATER, AND SOME SORT OF SHELTER.



THAT MAKES SENSE ESPECIALLY NOW, WITH IT BEING WINTER.

SO SOMEWHERE WITH FOOD, WATER, AND PROBABLY NEAR BUILDINGS FOR WARMTH AND SHELTER.



AND SOMEWHERE THEY CAN RELIABLY HIDE OR, TRY TO. ANYWAY THIS IS NOT SO STEALTH WE'RE TAKING ABOUT

IT FIGURES THEY'D BE SOME RANDOM PLACE AND NOT SOMEWHERE CONVENIENT LIKE DOWNTOWN MOPERVILLE.



DOESN'T A RIVER WITH FOREST AREAS AROUND IT RUN THROUGH DOWN TOWN MOPERVILLE?

THERE'S LOTS OF BUILDINGS, RESTAURANTS, AND PLACES TO HIDE THERE

AND IT'S CLOSE TO BEING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE NOT SO STEALTH SIGHTINGS.



DID I ACCIDENTLY MAYBE SOLVE ANOTHER THING?

YES.

AND ALL WHILE ON BREAK.



NONE OF YOU ARE ABOUT TO SUGGEST WE START WANDERING AROUND DOWNTOWN MOPERVILLE LOOKING FOR THESE THINGS. ARE YOU?

I WOULD BUT I'M GOING TO QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD AND NOT SAY ANYTHING.

EVEN IF WE'RE RIGHT IT'S STILL A LARGE AREA TO CHECK, AND THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN BE THERE WHEN WE ARE

I'D TRY LOOKING AROUND AS A FAIRY IF IT WERE WARMER, BUT I'D PROBABLY FREEZE IN THIS WEATHER.

THAT AND IT'S PROBABLY BAD FORM TO FLY AROUND BARS AT NIGHT

I THINK WE'RE AT THE POINT WHERE WE SEND OUR CONJECTURE TO YOUR UNCLE AND CALL IT A NIGHT

YOU WANT TO GO HOME ALREADY?

I WANT US TO ACCEPT THAT WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN REASONABLY DO FOR NOW

AND THEN I WANT TO SEE IF YOU CAN BEAT YOUR SO-CALLED "SEMI-AUTONOMOUS DOUBLE" AT MARIO KART

SECONDED.



OKAY

SO

JH



IF YOU'VE  
CHANGED YOUR  
MIND THAT'S  
OKAY

NO NO IT'S JUST  
SHOULD I TRANSFORM  
LIKE WHEN YOU FIRST  
SAW ME OR UH  
ANY REQUESTS?



REQUESTS?

Y YEAH I CAN  
CHOOSE WHAT I LOOK  
LIKE REMEMBER?



WELL JM I'VE  
NEVER TALKED ABOUT  
MY TRANSFORMAT ON  
PREFERENCES WITH  
ANYONE NOT IN  
PERSON, ANYWAY

YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO WEIRD  
ME OUT TRUST  
ME ON THIS

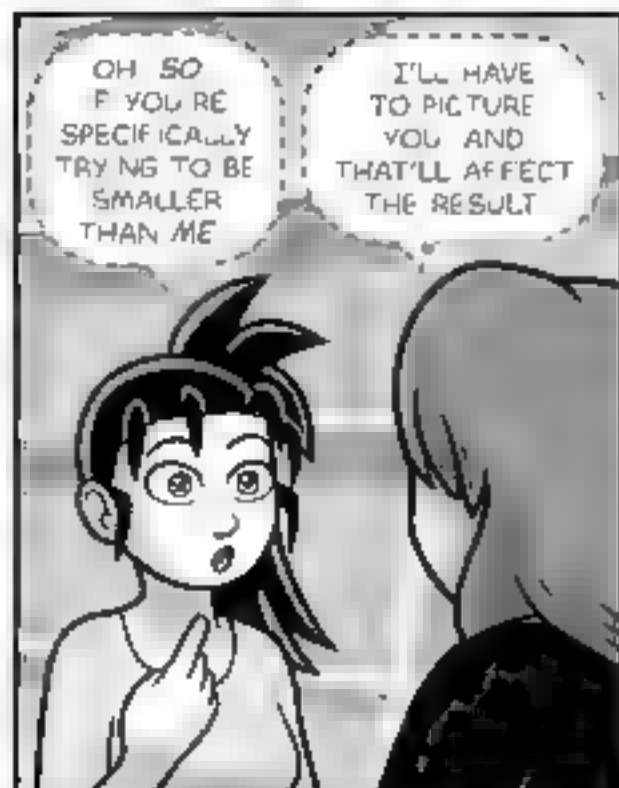


WELL JM I I USUALLY LIKE HIGH  
CONTRAST LIKE A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
BEFORE AND AFTER WITH WHATEVER'S UH  
DIFFERENT REALLY STANDING OUT

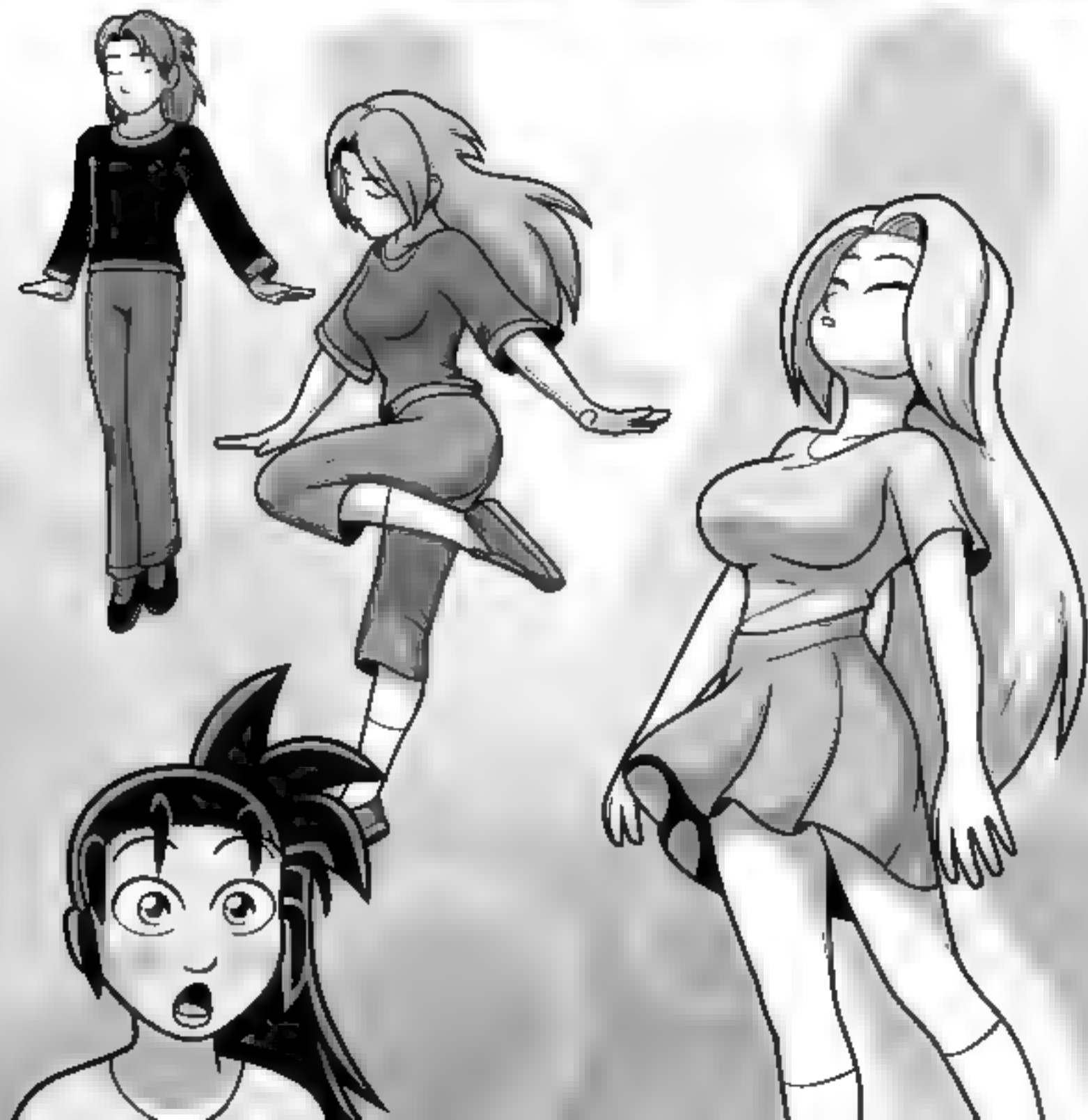


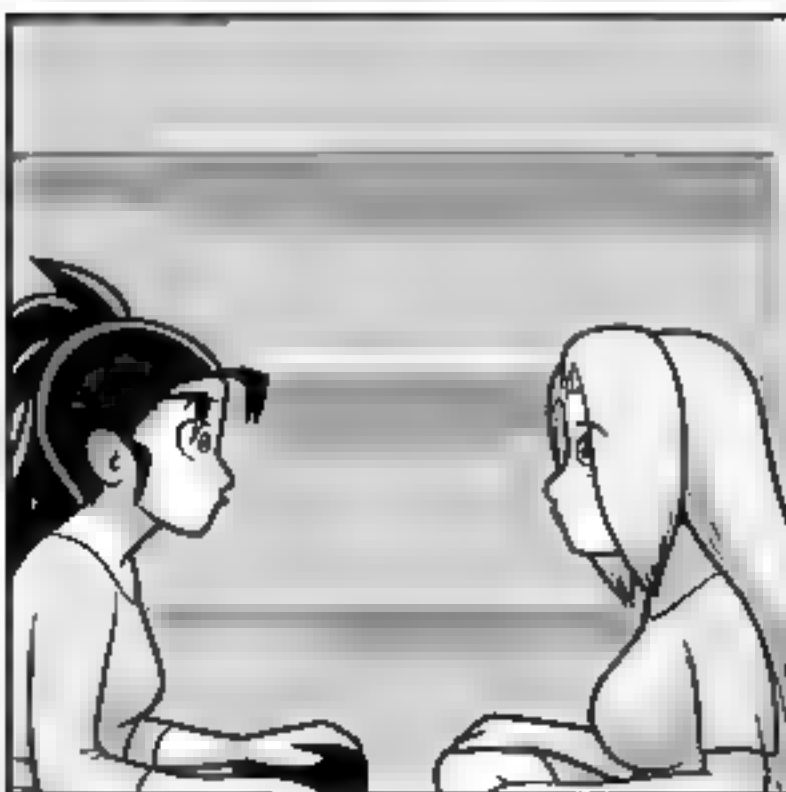
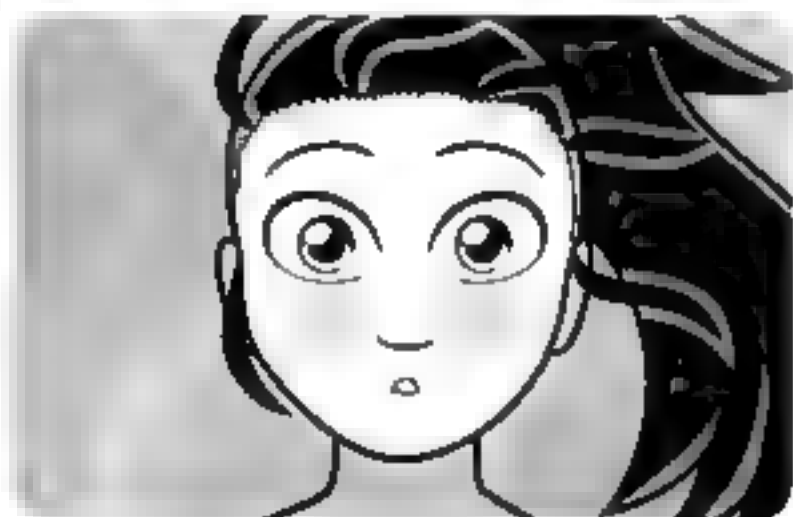
SO JM MAYBE  
LONG PINK HAIR  
AND ABOUT MY  
SIZE? MAYBE A  
LITTLE SMALLER?  
IS THAT OKAY?

THAN YOU UH T  
SHOULD BE BUT IS  
IT OKAY IF I LOOK A  
LITTLE LIKE YOU?















DO YOU  
UM, STILL  
HAVE YOUR  
PHONE,  
OR ?

UH YEAH! IT'S IN SORT  
OF A HIDDEN POCKET AROUND  
THE WAISTBAND. THAT  
USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN I  
HAVE STUFF IN MY POCKETS



"USUALLY" ?

ERHEM? I'M, UH  
NOT SURE IF I SHOULD  
TAKE PICTURES OF  
MYSELF LIKE THIS ON  
MY PHONE THOUGH.



WE NEED TO  
FIND YOU A  
MIRROR THEN.  
YOU'VE GOTTA SEE  
YOURSELF! YOU  
SO SO

"BWUH"?

YES.



I KNOW A CLOTHING  
STORE HERE WITH GREAT  
MIRRORS IN THE DRESSING  
ROOMS. AND I'M PRETTY  
SURE THEY DON'T HAVE  
CAMERAS INSIDE THEIR  
DRESSING ROOMS

I SURE  
HOPE THEY  
DON'T THAT'D  
BE ALL SORTS  
OF ILLEGAL



ACTUALLY IT'S NOT  
BUT THEY HAVE TO  
PUT UP SIGNS IF  
THEY DO SO

WAIT WHAT?  
THEY CAN? THIS  
IS A THING THAT  
HAPPENS?!

YEAH THEY DID A  
JOKE ABOUT T ON  
THE SIMPSONS AND  
EVERYTHING

YEAH. IN "LISA  
THE GREEK" BUT  
I DIDN'T THINK  
IT WAS REAL!



YOU KNOW THE  
EPISODE TITLE?

YEAH FROM THE  
DVDs. I USED TO WATCH  
THEM A LOT

I LOVE THE FIRST  
S X SEASONS

I LOVE THEM, TOO

WE SHOULD WATCH  
THEM TOGETHER.

YES WE SHOULD



IT'S TOO BAD YOU CAN'T  
TRANSFORM ME TOO  
WE COULD BE DANCING  
FOOLS TOGETHER

I'M PRETTY  
SURE I CAN'T  
BESIDES YOU  
WOULDN'T LOOK  
FOOLISH YOU  
KNOW BALLET

I ASSURE YOU I CAN  
LOOK WAIT YOU'RE "PRETTY  
SURE" YOU CAN'T?

EH  
THAT'S

"COMPLICATED"

RIGHT OF COURSE SO JH  
YOU'RE REALLY COMFORTABLE  
WITH BEING A GIRL?

BOY GIRL WHATEVS  
I GUESS SOMETIMES I  
FEEL MORE LIKE BEING  
ONE THAN THE OTHER

AND THERE ARE SOME  
WEIRD THINGS ABOUT  
I LIKE I THINK I SEE  
MORE SHADES OF RED  
WHEN I'M A GIRL

YOU  
SEE MORE  
RED?

PRETTY SURE SOME  
REDS THAT LOOK THE  
SAME WHEN I'M A  
GUY LOOK DIFFERENT  
WHEN I'M A GIRL

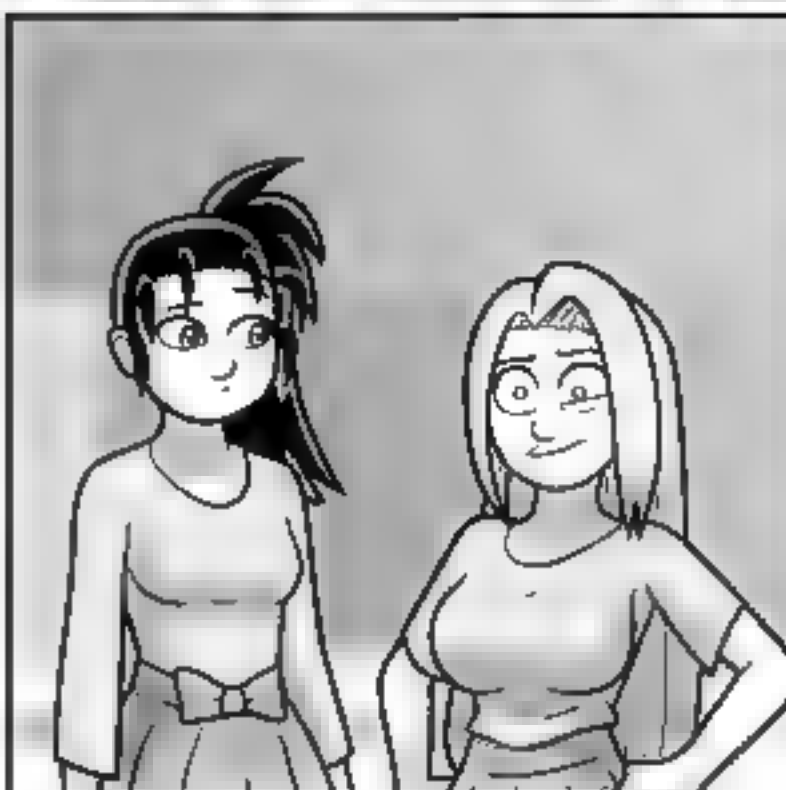
HUM


WALKING'S ALSO  
SORTA DIFFERENT BUT IT'S  
FINE SO LONG AS I DON'T  
THINK ABOUT

**TRIP**




THWUMP






YOU'RE SURE THEY  
DON'T HAVE CAMERAS  
IN THE DRESSING  
ROOMS?

YEAH. THEY  
CAN'T HAVE THEM  
WITHOUT SIGNS  
TELLING YOU




OKAY  
LET'S GO.


I'LL STAND  
GUARD OUT  
HERE



WA T  
WHAT?




YOU'RE NOT  
COMING IN WITH  
ME?



I CAN'T GO IN  
THERE WITH YOU

WHY NOT?


IT'S A DRESSING  
ROOM!



YEAH. BUT IT'S NOT  
LIKE I'M GOING TO DO  
ANY DRESSING

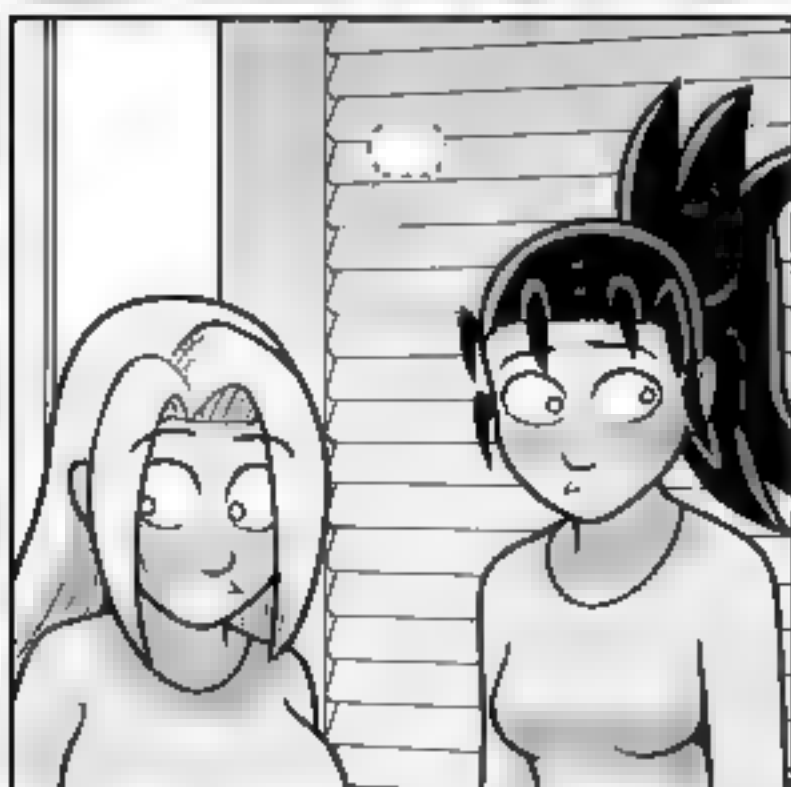
THEN WHY ARE YOU  
WORRED ABOUT..?

BECAUSE IT'S WEIRD  
TO GO IN A DRESSING  
ROOM AND NOT-

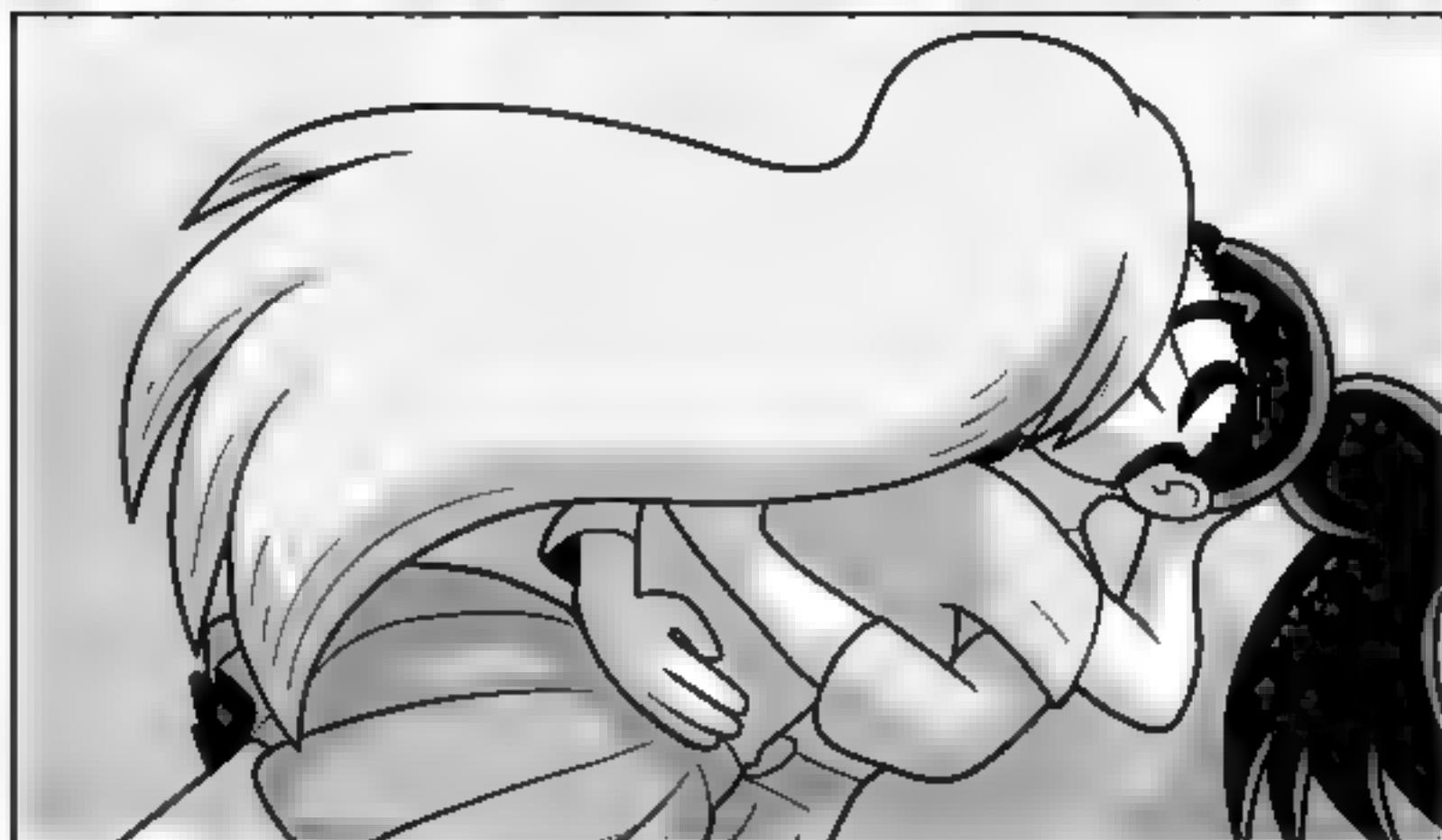


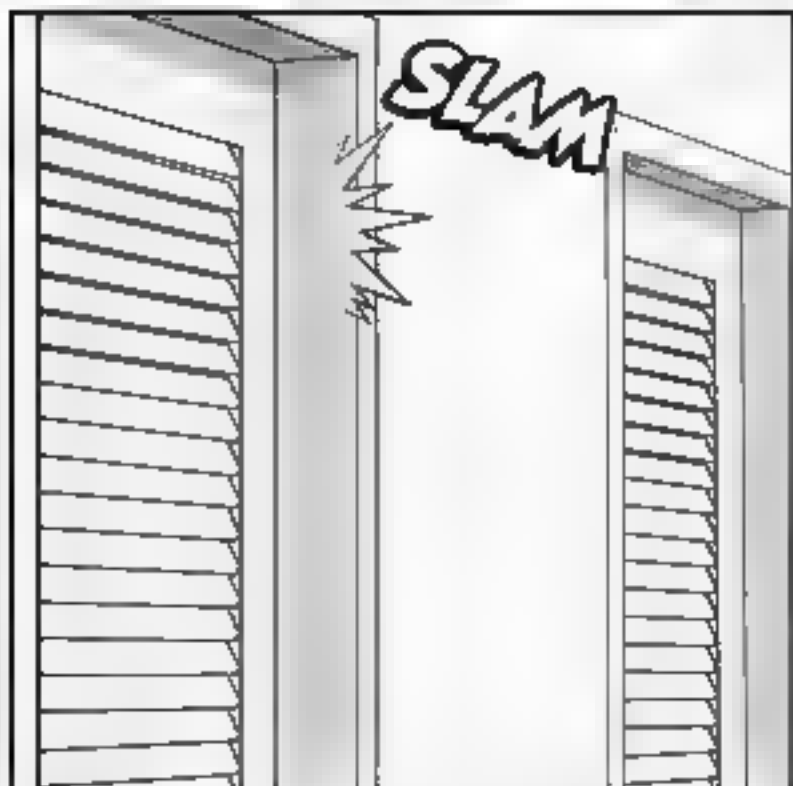
WA T YOU  
THOUGHT I  
WAS?

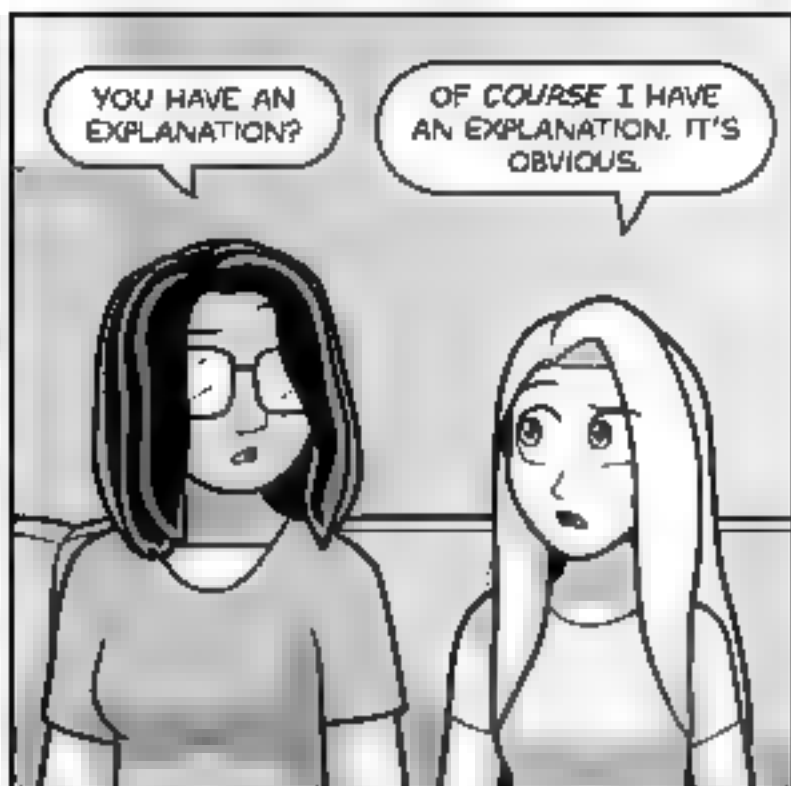
WELL I JUST... I  
FIGURED THAT HOW'S  
TAKING A PEEK NOT THE  
FIRST THING ANYONE DOES  
AFTER TRANSFORMING?!



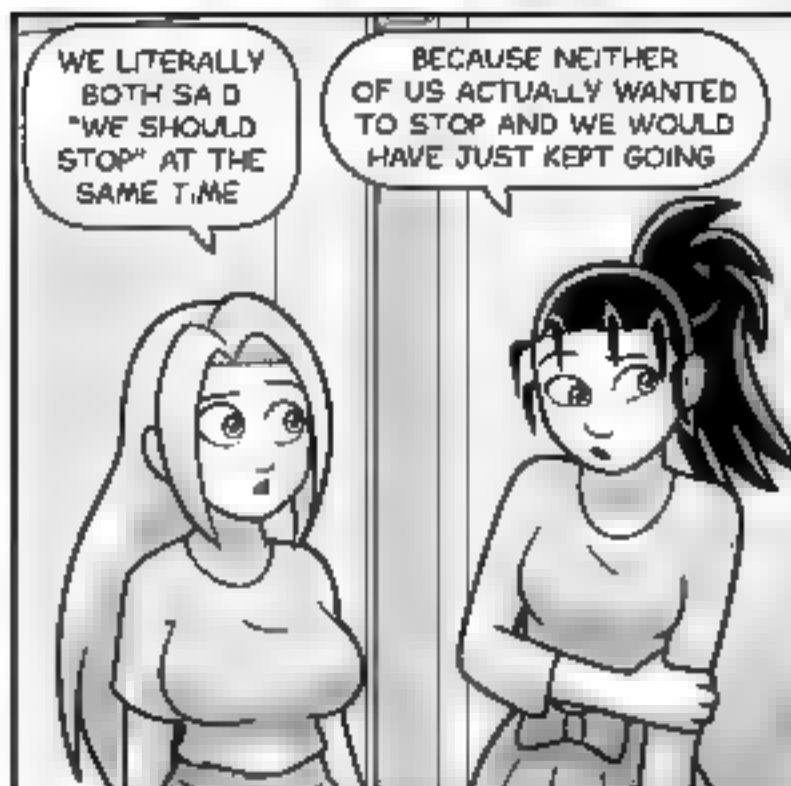














**Last  
August**



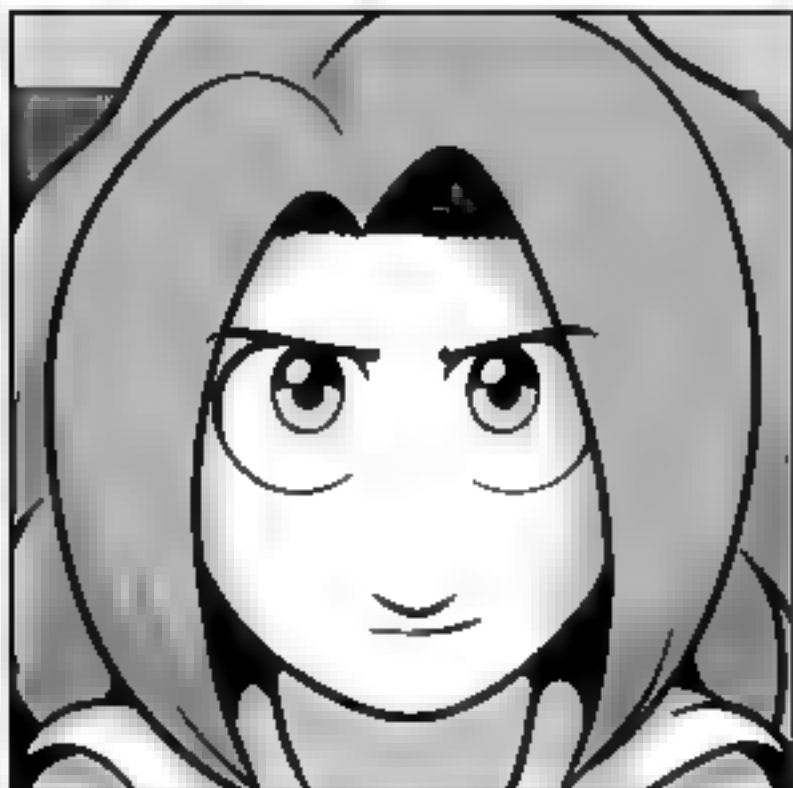


Shortly before closing time two nights later.











A man with a beard and a woman are in a conversation. The man is looking at the woman with a questioning expression.

ARE YOU  
CHEERLEADRA?

A close-up of the woman's face. She has a neutral, slightly questioning expression.


~BLINK~

A close-up of the woman's face. She has a slightly more concerned or questioning expression.

WHO ELSE  
WOULD I BE?

The man is speaking, gesturing with his hands. He has a slightly apologetic or explanatory expression.


I DON'T  
MEAN TO  
OFFEND! IT'S  
JUST

The man is speaking, looking directly at the woman. He has a serious expression.

WELL, IF I'M GOING TO TELL  
ELLIOT *CHEERLEADRA* STOPPED  
BY I WANT TO BE SURE THAT  
SHE ACTUALLY *DID*!

The man is speaking, looking directly at the woman. He has a serious expression.

I DON'T  
WANT TO BE  
A PAWN IN  
SOME SORT  
OF EVIL  
VILLAIN  
PLOT!

The man is speaking, looking directly at the woman. He has a serious expression.

ALSO I'M A BIG  
FAN BUT THAT'S  
LESS IMPORTANT

The woman is speaking, looking at the man. She has a determined expression.

I CAN PROVE  
IT TO YOU.







**Present  
Date**



ELLIOT'S  
PHONE

WHO IS  
THIS? IT'S  
URGENT  
THAT I  
SPEAK  
WITH  
ELL OT!

I'M A FRIEND TRUST ME  
ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL HIM,  
YOU CAN TELL ME

YOU MUST BE  
THAT GIRL I SAW HIM  
WITH. I WOULD'VE  
SAID HELLO. BUT IT  
LOOKED LIKE A  
DATE AND

THAT'S NOT  
IMPORTANT RIGHT  
NOW! THERE'S  
SOME BIG CLOAKED...  
THING IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE  
MALL!

CLOAKED  
THING?

I DON'T THINK  
SHE'S HUMAN. OR  
EVEN HUMANOID!  
AND I THINK SHE'S  
LOOKING FOR  
ELLIOT SHE (I  
THINK SHE'S A  
SHE) IS  
DEMANDING TO  
SEE "ELLIOT  
GERMAN DARK"

"GERMAN  
DARK"?

I LOOKED  
IT UP ON MY  
PHONE. AND  
ONE WORD  
FOR DARK IN  
GERMAN IS  
"DUNKEL"!

ELLIOT  
PRONOUNCES  
IT LIKE AN  
ENGLISH WORD,  
BUT STILL! KINDA  
THINKING THAT  
BEING HIS LAST  
NAME IS NOT A  
COINCIDENCE!

HUH.  
WELL, THAT  
ANSWERS ONE  
QUESTION.

WHAT?  
LISTEN. YOU  
AND ELLIOT NEED  
TO GET OUT OF  
HERE AND  
ELLIOT NEEDS  
TO CALL "YOU-  
KNOW-WHO"!  
HE'LL KNOW  
WHAT I MEAN!  
OKAY?

YEAH.

OKAY GOOD I'LL BE IN THE  
GAMING STORE IT'S NO SALTY  
CRACKER COMICS BUT SHE'S  
OUT THERE AND THEY'VE GOT  
REPLICA SWORDS IN HERE





SOMETHING'S GOING ON. I WANT YOU TO GET SOMEWHERE WITH A LOT OF COVER AWAY FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE MALL, OKAY?

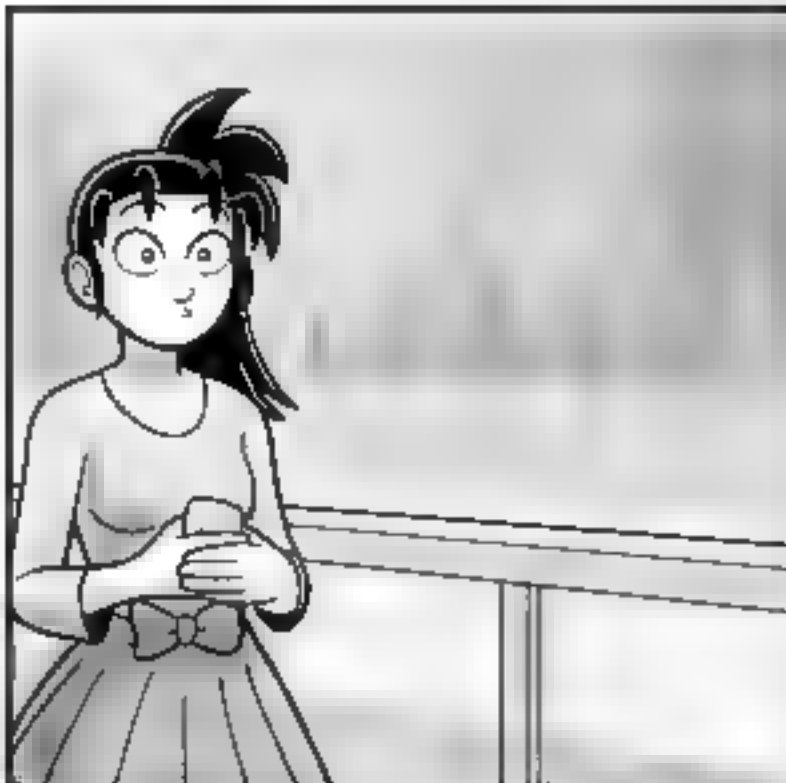
WHAT'S HAPPENING? AND SHOULDN'T WE BOTH GET SOMEWHERE SAFE?

JUST.. PLEASE GET SOMEWHERE SAFE, AND... AND TAKE MY PHONE CALL "ELLEN" IN MY LIST OF NUMBERS AND TELL HER CHEERLEADRA'S GOING TO TRY TO TALK TO THE CLOAKED FIGURE AT THE MALL. OKAY?

CHEERLEADRA? BUT.. WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO BE?

TRYING TO TALK TO THE CLOAKED FIGURE











# WHAT IS LOVE? BABY DON'T HURT M



A WHAT?  
SORRY I DIDN'T  
HEAR THAT

JH...

OH! UM, ARE  
YOU SITTING?  
DO YOU WANT  
TO TALK?

"IN SEARCH  
OF AVALON.?"  
WAIT A MINUTE  
ARE YOU..?

I am in  
search of  
Avalon.

GRRRRRRRR...

WHERE

IS

MY

WIFE?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE CLOAKED  
FIGURE IS A TALKING  
TIGER GRIFFIN!

TIGER GRIFFIN?

SHE WANTS TO KNOW  
WHERE HER WIFE IS AND  
SORT OF SOUNDS LIKE RAVEN  
FROM TEEN TITANS.

WHAT?

NOT EXACTLY LIKE RAVEN'S  
VOICE. BUT IT'S ALL I CAN  
THINK TO COMPARE IT TO.

I  
DON'T..

PEOPLE SAW  
A GRIFFIN AT  
MOPERVILLE NORTH  
A COUPLE MONTHS  
AGO. WAS SHE--

Don't play the fool  
with ME, German Dark! I have  
the word of an Ancient saying  
you know where she is!

I'M. I'M  
NOT REALLY  
SURE WHAT THAT  
MEANS, BUT  
I'M NOT

You recognized  
the code phrase, and  
I SEE THROUGH  
the magic on you.

That  
enchantment is  
NOT your  
true form!

Take me to  
my wife...

...AND I WON'T  
KILL YOU AFTER  
DISPELLING IT.

EVEN IF YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT WHO I AM, AND I'M NOT SAYING YOU ARE I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE SHE IS!

I KNOW YOU HAVE THE WORD OF SOME "ANCIENT" PERSON. BUT I REALLY DON'T!

SHE WAS JUST... THERE ONE DAY! ELLIOT ASKED HER WHY SHE WAS THERE, AND SHE SAID 'I AM IN SEARCH OF AVALON'!

ELLIOT DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT WAS, AND SAID SOMETHING THAT WAS PROBABLY STUPID IN RETROSPECT, AND SHE LEFT!

THAT ANCIENT IS WRONG!

Ancients are **INCREDIBLY** knowledgeable and wise.

THEN THEY'RE LYING!

ANCIENTS CANNOT LIE!

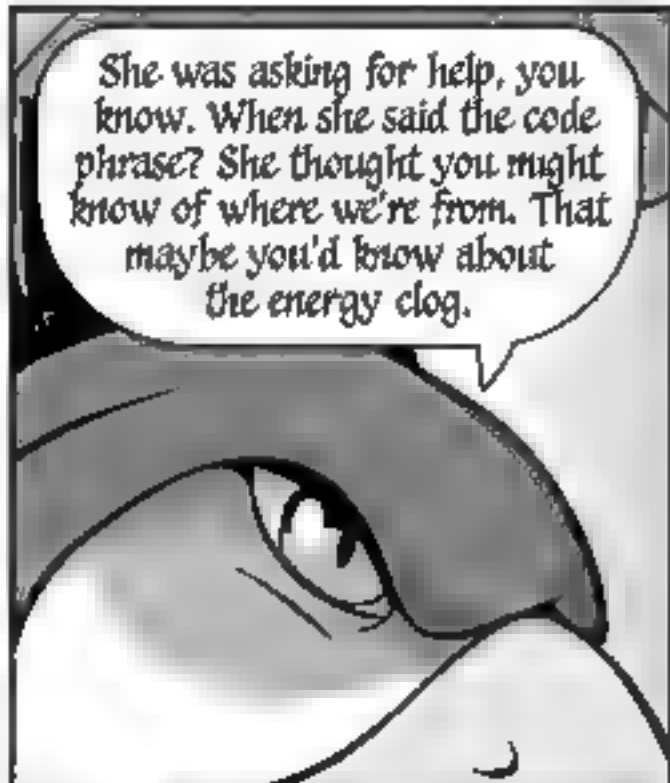
HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY CAN'T?

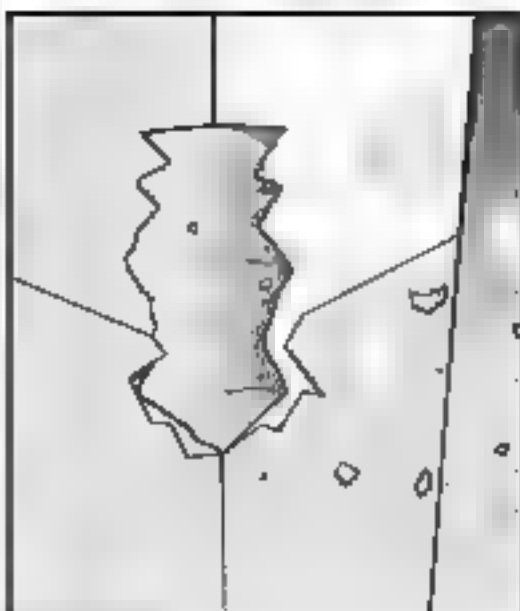
It's **THE RULES!** it's **THEIR** rules! They **KNOW** when they are broken, and to break them is to **DECLARE WAR** on the rest of their kind!

THAT... DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEY CAN'T LIE EXACTLY IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE IT'S JUST A **BAD IDEA TO**

**JUST TAKE ME TO MY WIFE ALREADY!**











FANTASTIC.  
MOVE, PLEASE!



THAT GRIFFIN IS A KNIGHT  
FROM ANOTHER WORLD. IT  
MIGHT TAKE HER SEVERAL  
ATTEMPTS TO HIT ELLIOT, BUT  
SHE ONLY NEEDS ONE HIT




IMAGINE WHAT  
SHORT WORK SHE  
WOULD MAKE OF  
SOMEONE AS  
FRAGILE AS YOU.




I... I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOUR DEAL  
IS...


BUT I'M  
STOPPING THE  
FIGHT! SHE  
WON'T HURT  
ME!



WON'T  
SHE?



GET  
OUT OF MY  
WAY!



I'M NOT ACTUALLY IN  
YOUR WAY YOU COULD WALK  
RIGHT THROUGH ME



I WAS JUST



GIVING SOME ADVICE





SO MUCH OF MARTIAL ARTS IS ABOUT BALANCE AND SHIFTING YOUR WEIGHT! HOW DOES THAT EVEN WORK WHEN DEFYING GRAVITY?!



I COULD LAND AND TRY TO FIGHT THAT WAY BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT A FOUR LEGGED TIGER-BIRD, EITHER!



I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT MY BEST STRATEGY IS TO BUY TIME AND WAIT FOR THE CAVALRY!



I'VE GOTTA GET THEIR ATTENTION, BUT IF I DISTRACT ELLIOT AT THE WRONG MOMENT..



HOW CAN I STOP THEM WITHOUT..



WAIT! ISN'T THERE A



YES! THAT'S IT!









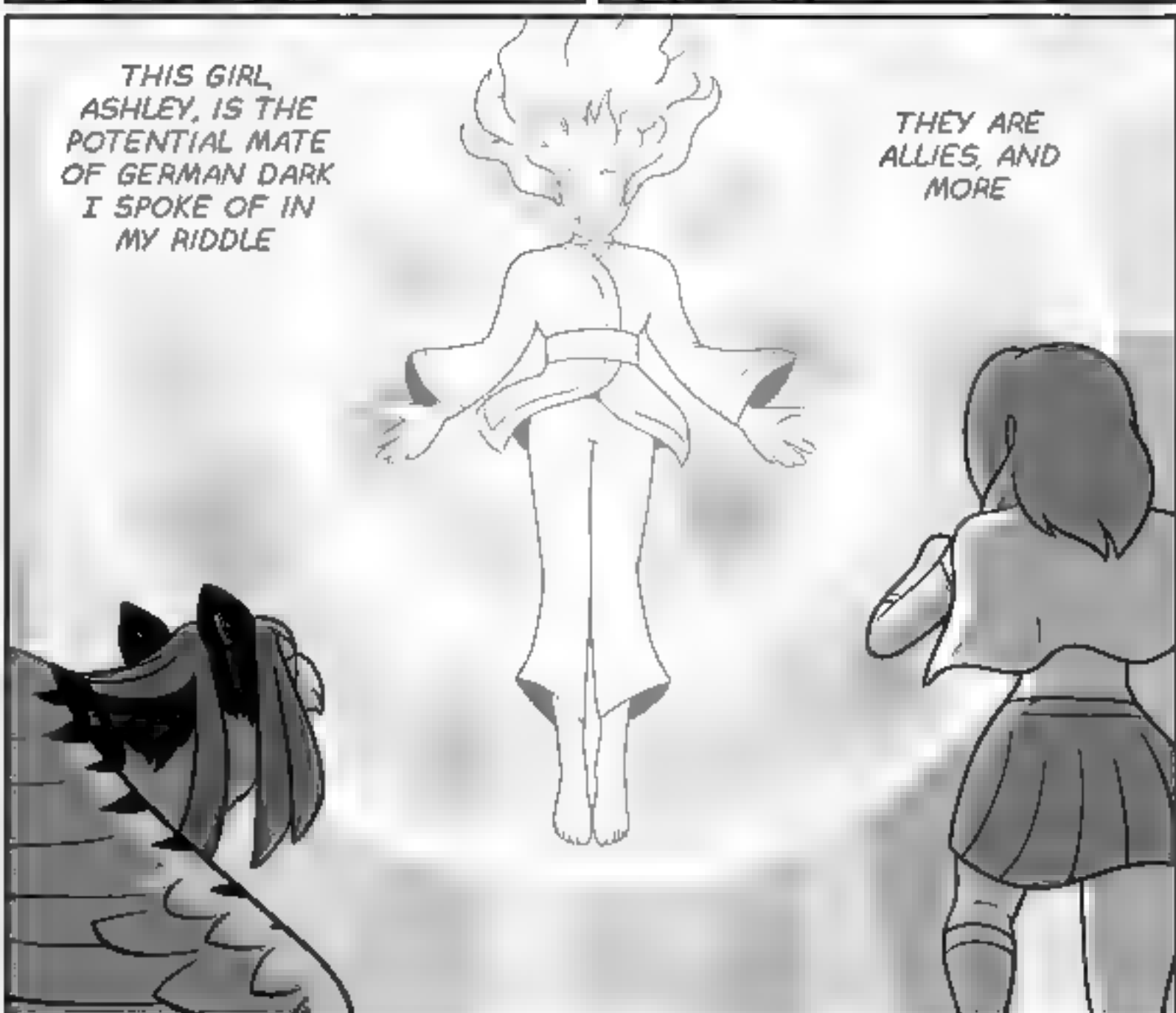




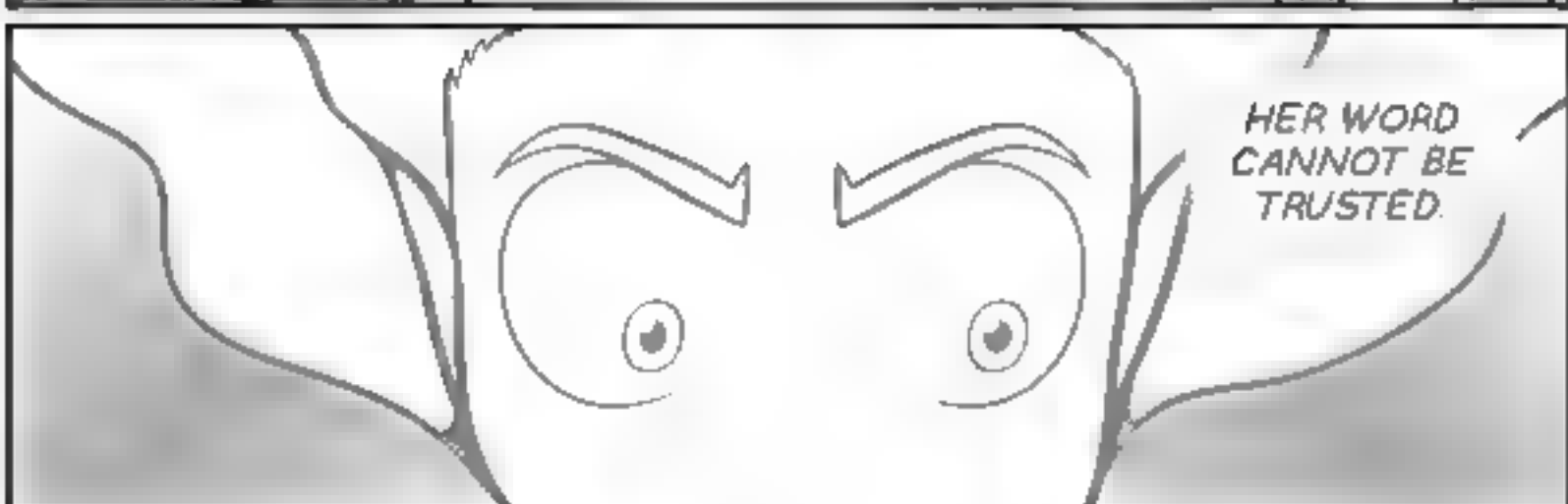
DO  
NOT BE  
DECEIVED,  
DAME  
TARA



THIS GIRL,  
ASHLEY, IS THE  
POTENTIAL MATE  
OF GERMAN DARK  
I SPOKE OF IN  
MY RIDDLE



THEY ARE  
ALLIES, AND  
MORE



HER WORD  
CANNOT BE  
TRUSTED



The ENTIRE REASON I've been chasing German Dark around is because I want her to tell me where my wife is. Now her friend says she might be able to help, and you want me to IGNORE that?



I'M NOT TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO I AM SIMPLY ADVISING YOU



SEE? THAT! THAT'S WHAT IMMORTALS ON OUR WORLD DO! THEY GUIDE! THAT'S WHAT THEY AGREED ON!



Ancients do that, too, except they're big on riddles.



Shouldn't you be phrasing this advice like... um...

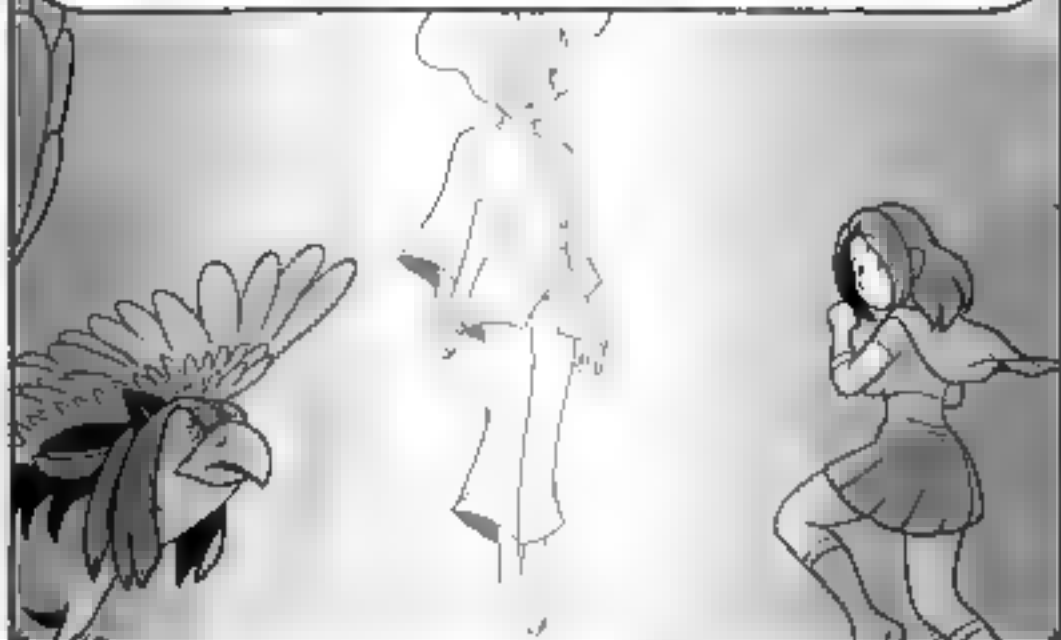
Okay, I don't know how you turn "they're liars" into a riddle, but shouldn't YOU?



YOU ALREADY SOLVED MY RIDDLES MY CONTINUED GUIDANCE IS YOUR REWARD FOR--



**I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!**





**IMMORTALS  
CAN LIE!**

I'M FIVE  
HUNDRED FEET  
TALL!

CATS ARE  
JUST SMALL  
DOGS!

ALL CAKES  
ARE PIES!

PEOPLE ONLY  
USE TEN PERCENT  
OF THEIR BRAIN!

THE MOON  
LANDING WAS  
A HOAX!

THE LOCH  
NESS MONSTER  
IS BIG FOOT!

MEN BUY ADULT  
MAGAZINES FOR  
THE ARTICLES!



IS THERE  
AN IMMORTAL  
CONVENTION AT  
THIS MALL?



I... don't know what  
most of those assertions  
even MEAN...



...But everything after  
"immortals can lie" was  
superfluous, wasn't it?



YOU DARE  
TO INTERFERE  
W/TH--



CRAM IT, YOU! YOU'RE THE  
ONE PUSHING "ONLY GUIDE AND  
EMPOWER" AS FAR AS IT'LL BEND!



DAMMIT I LEFT OUT  
THE "EMPOWER" BIT  
INTENTIONALLY...



HELENA!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING?!

YOU CRAM IT TOO,  
DEMETRIUS! I'M TIRED  
OF JUST SITTING BACK AND  
LETTING STUFF HAPPEN!



THE GRIFFIN WAS  
ALREADY DOUBTING THAT  
GUY! THIS WOULD'VE  
RESOLVED WITHOUT YOU!

YEAH, IT  
WOULD'VE  
SLOWLY



German Dark. I deeply apologize  
for attacking you. I was upset and  
misled, but that is no excuse. A  
knight must do better.

As for YOU...  
**BEGONE.**

I AM  
IMMORTAL  
GRIFFIN.

YOU DO  
NOT TELL  
ME WHAT  
TO

**BE**

**GONE!**

HOLY CRAP  
SHE WAS HOLDING  
BACK WHEN SHE  
ATTACKED ME

SHE WAS HOLDING  
BACK A LOT



YOU ARE NO THREAT  
TO ME . THOUGH THAT IS,  
IN PART, BECAUSE I CAN  
DEPART TO ANOTHER LAYER  
OF REALITY I CONCEDE  
THE POINT



**I SHALL BEGONE.  
FARE THEE WELL...**



**ELLIOT  
DUNKEL**



SO WE  
ESTABLISHED  
THAT HE'S A  
LIAR. RIGHT?







WHO'S  
ELLIOT  
DUNKEL?

WASN'T THE BIRD  
YELLING FOR ELLIOT  
GERMAN DARK?

THAT MUST  
BE HER SECRET  
IDENTITY!

ELLIOT CAN  
BE A GIRL'S  
NAME?

WHO CARES?  
DUDE WAS A  
LYING LIAR!



WHY DOES  
THAT NAME  
SOUND  
FAMILIAR?

ISN'T THAT THE  
WEIRD MARTIAL ARTS  
GUY FROM SCHOOL?

THAT'S  
WHAT THAT GUY'S  
NAME IS?

HOLY JACKASS  
THAT GIRL IS WHO I  
THOUGHT SHE WAS



BETWEEN THIS AND THAT  
GIRL BEING THE ONE I SAW HIM  
WITH EARLIER. COULD CHEER-  
LEADRA REALLY BE ELLIOT?!



THAT WOULD  
BE SO COOL!



WE SHOULD  
PROBABLY GO  
NOW..









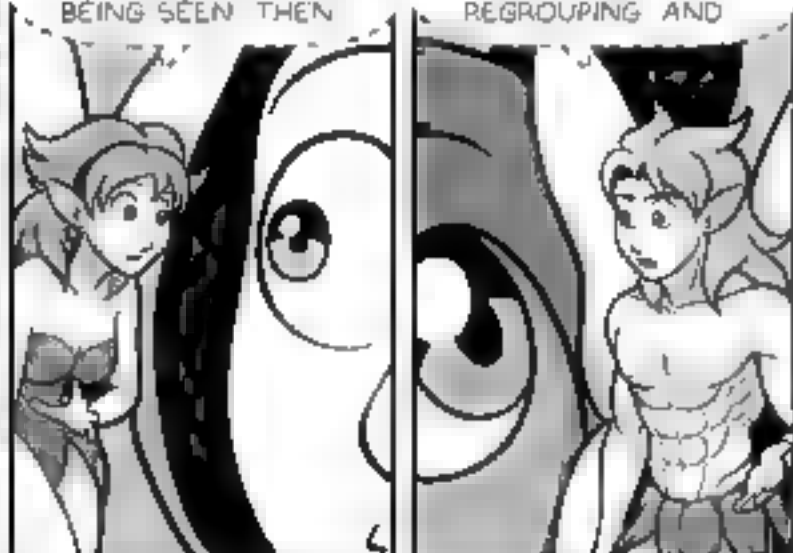
A moment earlier





GRAB ASHLEY AND FLY OUT THROUGH THE NORTH EXIT YOU SHOULD HAVE TIME TO CHANGE BACK TO NORMAL WITHOUT BEING SEEN THEN

STAY HIDDEN BUT FOLLOW GERMAN DARK AND HER VEHICLE THERE IS A PARKING LOT NORTHWEST OF HERE DEAL FOR REGROUPING AND





ELLIOT?!

HEY ELLEN,  
WE'RE OKAY  
ASHLEY AND I  
ARE IN THE--



YOU  
JERKS!

SAY  
WHAT  
NOW?



NEITHER ONE  
OF YOU COULD'VE  
ANSWERED THE  
DAMN PHONE?!

WE WERE SORTA  
BUSY TALKING DOWN  
AN AGGRESSIVE  
TIGER GRIFFIN.



WE THOUGHT  
YOU MIGHT BE  
DEAD!

WHAT?  
WHY WOULD  
YOU THINK  
THAT?!

I MEAN, OTHER  
THAN MY PROXIMITY  
TO A TIGER GRIFFIN.



BECAUSE NANASE  
TRIED CONTACTING YOU WITH  
HER FAIRY SPELL, AND IT KEPT  
NOT WORKING!

BUT NANASE'S  
BEEN TO THIS  
MALL WHY  
WOULDN'T IT?



EXACTLY

OOOOH.

UH, SORRY  
ABOUT THAT..



BRRR! MY COAT'S ALL COLD! I GUESS THAT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ME.

I'LL GET THE HEATER GOING.



SO WE'RE GOING TO MEET UP WITH TARA THE GRIFFIN NOW RIGHT?

I GUESS SO. THAT IMMORTAL SAID WE SHOULD MEET UP AT AN EMPTY PARKING LOT I THINK I KNOW WHERE IT IS.



"THINK"?

I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING THAT IF I DO MAKE A WRONG TURN, SOMEONE'S GONNA SHOW UP TO CORRECT ME



DO YOU KNOW THEM? THE... HELPFUL IMMORTALS?

NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE I'VE HEARD ABOUT IMMORTALS. BUT I'D NEVER MET ONE

I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY HELPED US.



OH, UM. IS IT A BAD IDEA TO TRUST THEM?

IMMORTALS IN GENERAL? I DON'T KNOW BUT I THINK THOSE TWO ARE ACTUALLY TRYING TO HELP US



IT DID SEEM THAT WAY... SHOULD I CALL ELLEN AGAIN? YOU'VE GOT TWELVE MISSED CALLS FROM HER.

EEP.



ANYWAY AH. WE ARE  
OKAY BUT WE SORTA  
HAVE TO GO AND MEET  
THE TIGER GRIFFIN TARA  
IN SOME PARKING LOT.

"TARA"? YOU  
GUYS MADE  
FR ENDS?

I GUESS? SHE  
APOLOGIZED TO ME BUT  
SHE'S ALSO EXPECTING  
US TO HAVE A GENERAL  
IDEA WHERE HER WIFE IS.  
DO YOU GUYS REALLY  
KNOW WHERE SHE IS?

WE HAVE A  
GOOD IDEA WHERE  
TO LOOK WHERE DO  
WE MEET YOU?

YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO MEET US! YOU  
COULD JUST TELL  
US WHAT TO--

IS TARA GOING TO  
ACCEPT THAT YOUR  
FRIENDS JUST  
HAPPEN TO HAVE  
THIS INFORMATION?

...MAYBE?

AND MAYBE IT'LL LOOK  
SUPER SUSPICIOUS IF  
YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN  
HOW AND WHY WE  
KNOW ALL THIS.

WE'RE  
GOING TO  
BE THERE.

BUT SHE  
ISN'T EXPECTING  
ANYBODY ELSE  
TO BE THERE!

WE'LL  
KEEP OUR  
DISTANCE  
UNTIL YOU  
WAVE JS  
IN.

BESIDES, IF  
SHE'S ON  
THAT BAD OF A  
HAIR TRIGGER,  
THEN YOU  
NEED BACKUP

OKAY, OKAY YOU KNOW THOSE  
PLAIN LOOKING BUILDING DEALIES THAT  
ARE SORT OF IN THE MALL AREA, BUT  
NOT, AND COULD BE OFFICE SPACE OR  
WAREHOUSES OR WHATEVER?

YEAH.

ONCE ELLIOT GIVES THE  
OKAY, NANASE AND I WILL JOIN  
THEM AND EXPLAIN THE HOWS  
AND WHYS WE KNOW STUFF

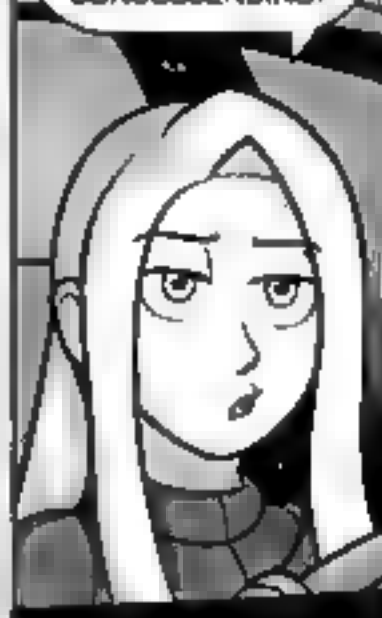
YOU WANT  
JS TO WAIT IN  
THE CAR?



I'M NOT ASSUMING THAT THE  
FREAKIN' TIGER GRIFFIN WON'T  
FLIP OUT IF IT TURNS OUT WE'RE  
WRONG OR SOMETHING. IF JUST  
ME AND NANASE GO THEN THE  
ONLY BYSTANDER WE HAVE TO  
WORRY ABOUT IS ASHLEY



WHAT IS IT  
ABOUT "BYSTANDER"  
THAT SOUNDS SO  
CONDESCENDING?



I HAVE A  
GUARDIAN ANGEL  
FORM. WHAT'S  
YOUR MOVE IF THE  
TIGER GRIFFIN  
FLIPS OUT?

GET  
BEHIND YOU,  
OBVIOUSLY



ACCORDING TO SOCIAL MEDIA, THE GRIFFIN IS  
A KNIGHT WHO ONLY ATTACKED CHEERLEADRA  
BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO PRESUMABLY COULDN'T  
JE SAID CHEERLEADRA HAD DONE SOMETHING TO  
HER WIFE AND SHE CEASED HOSTILITIES AFTER  
GETTING HIT WITH A SOCCER BALL.



DIANE, DO  
YOU HAVE A  
SOCCER-

NO.



THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT CHEERLEADRA IS ELLEN'S BROTHER.

**WHAT?!**

ROAD!  
ROAD!

**SCREECH**

**HONK!  
HONK!**

CHARLOTTE!  
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?!

I'M NOT VOCALIZING DEDUCTION. PEOPLE ARE CLAIMING A FLOATING ELF JESUS CALLED HER "ELLIOT DUNKEL"

WHAT

BUT HOW WOULD THAT EVEN. YOU WERE ON THE PHONE WITH ELLIOT WHEN CHEERLEADRA WAS TALKING TO THE GRIFFIN. RIGHT?

YES.  
THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.

ARE YOU SURE  
THIS IS THE RIGHT  
PLACE?

'Tis.

**EEP!**

I MEAN.  
HELLO

HI. UH..  
I'M ELLIOT

I can tell, but  
I appreciate you  
saying so.

I was starting to  
worry, but the "fairy"  
immortal reminded me  
that your vehicle could  
not travel here as quickly  
as I could fly.

You arranged  
for the friends you  
spoke of to meet  
us here?

UH.  
YEAH. HOW  
DID YOU--

Again, the fairy immortal.  
That, and I saw them turning into  
the parking lot just next to this  
one a moment ago.

REALLY? HUH. I  
TOLD THEM WHERE  
TO GO.







HEY GUYS. UH,  
THIS IS ASHLEY...

...AND TARA.

HI!

Greetings.



'SUP? I'M  
ELLEN AND THIS  
IS CHARLOTTE.

GREETINGS.

NANASE

HELLO

AND  
DIANE

UH...  
YEAH. HI AND  
STUFF



It's... Forgive me,  
but... *JUST* Nanase?  
No title?



A *TITLE*? LIKE  
WHAT? WHY WOULD  
I HAVE A TITLE?



From your  
aura, I was expecting  
"princess".

You have inside you  
blood of queens.



I...



WHAT?



This is based on what I was taught in my world, so perhaps it's different here, but your aura simply **RADIATES** royalty.



HOW DOES THAT EVEN.. EVEN WITH "BECAUSE MAGIC", THAT'S A STRETCH. YOU JUST LOOK AT PEOPLE AND KNOW STUFF LIKE THAT ABOUT THEM?



Some things about them, yes. It's how I knew the flying woman was actually Elliot...



...that you're Elliot's twin in spite of having an oddly... **DIFFERENT** sort of magic potential...



...and that **YOU'RE** a potential **VAMPIRE HUNTER**.

WHAT

VAMPIRES ARE REAL?!

(I MEAN I  
KNOW I'M ASKING A  
GRIFFIN BUT )

NOT LIKE  
IN BOOKS, BUT  
YEAH

I HELPED  
KILL ONE

...Are you  
**CERTAIN** you're  
not royalty?

WAIT WAIT WAIT—  
HOW EXACTLY AM I POTENTIAL  
FREAKIN' VAMPIRE HUNTER?!

I can explain it  
to you, but **FIRST**  
there is the matter of  
my **MISSING WIFE**.

I understand you have  
a general idea of where  
she might be?

YES. WE THINK  
SO. IT'S JUST A  
**THEORY** BUT WE  
THINK SHE'S

Forgive me. I  
don't believe you have ill  
intent, but I have already  
been fooled once.

I would like to know  
**HOW** you know, and  
**WHY** you were looking  
for her to begin with.





HOW AND WHY OKAY! I HAD A FEELING YOU'D WANT TO KNOW



BASICALLY WE WERE BORED. AND--

IF I MAY

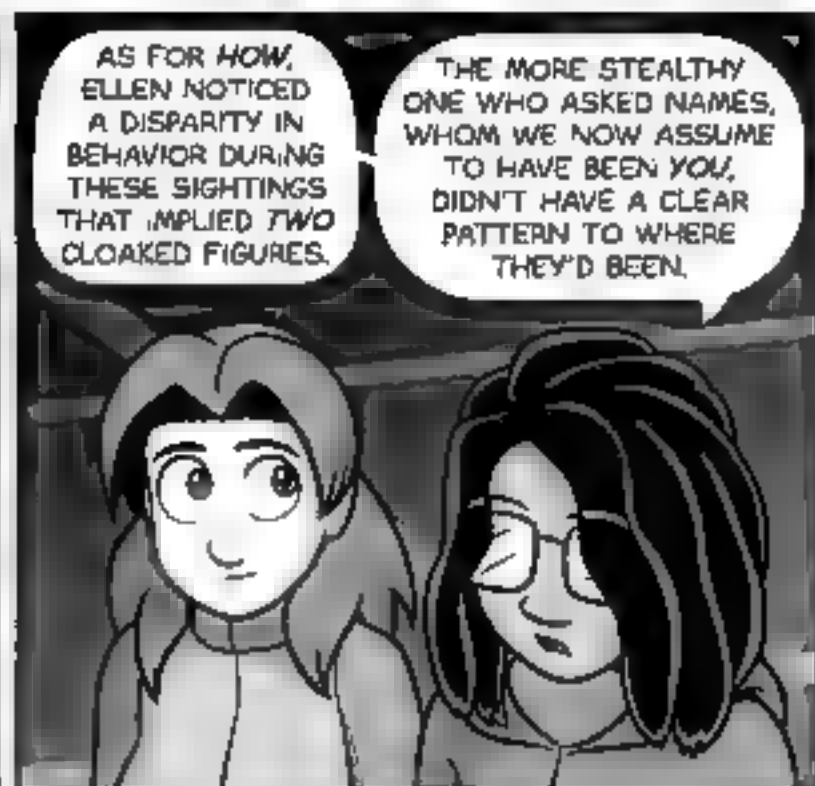


I TAKE INTEREST IN THE UNUSUAL AND SPOOKY AND A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, PEOPLE STARTED REPORTING SIGHTINGS OF A CLOAKED FIGURE AROUND MOPERVILLE AND ITS NEIGHBORING AREAS.



MY CURIOSITY WAS VERY RECENTLY PIQUED WHEN SOMEONE MANAGED TO GET AN IMAGE OF THE FIGURE SHOWING THAT THEY CLEARLY WEREN'T HUMAN.

THIS MADE ME WANT TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY THUS ANSWERING WHY



AS FOR HOW, ELLEN NOTICED A DISPARITY IN BEHAVIOR DURING THESE SIGHTINGS THAT IMPLIED TWO CLOAKED FIGURES.

THE MORE STEALTHY ONE WHO ASKED NAMES, WHOM WE NOW ASSUME TO HAVE BEEN YOU, DIDN'T HAVE A CLEAR PATTERN TO WHERE THEY'D BEEN.




I HAVE been many places looking, but...

The OTHER cloaked figure. SHE had a pattern?




SHE HAS ONLY BEEN SPOTTED IN MOPERVILLE

THAT'S STILL A COUPLE DOZEN SQUARE MILES. BUT WE BELIEVE WE KNOW THE GENERAL AREA SHE'D MOST LIKELY BE FOUND IN GIVEN HER SURVIVAL



I ASSUME SHE CANNOT  
SIMPLY RETURN TO YOUR WORLD  
FROM JUST ANYWHERE?

There are specific  
places to do it. The only  
obstacle should be getting  
to one of them.




MAYBE SHE  
CAN'T GET TO  
ONE FOR SOME  
REASON?

I've been to the one  
she used to get here  
many times these past  
couple months. It is  
easily accessible.



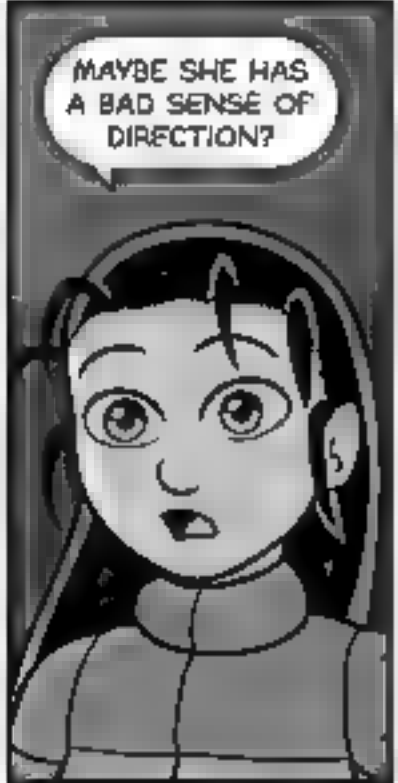
SHE'S SHOWN TOO MUCH  
MOBILITY FOR AN INJURY TO




MAYBE THERE'S  
AN ENEMY SHE  
DOESN'T WANT TO  
LEAD THERE?



WHAT IF  
SHE'S BEING  
LIED TO BY  
SOMEONE  
TOO?



MAYBE SHE HAS  
A BAD SENSE OF  
DIRECTION?



OKAY YEAH, THAT'S  
PROBABLY NOT IT..

THAT...

Sounds exactly  
like Andrea.

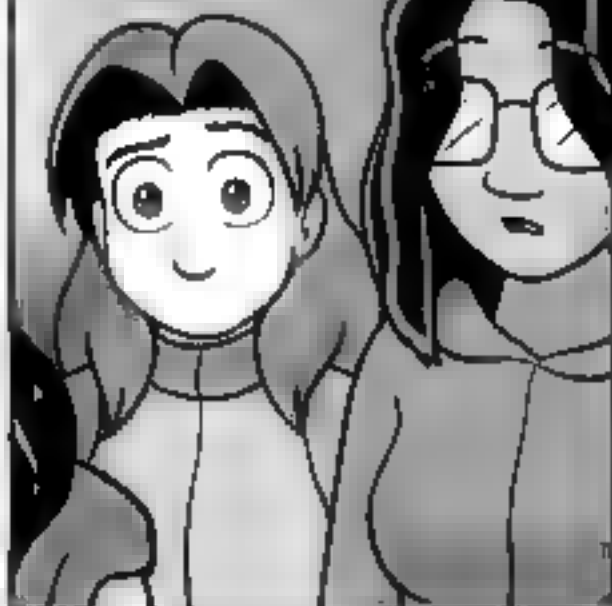


WHAT.

And that's the how...  
if you're correct, if  
you've found her, I'm  
grateful, but...



BUT?



You make it sound as  
though no one has been  
holding her captive.  
As though she were free  
to come and go as  
she pleased.



AND THAT'S... BAD?



I BELIEVED that  
**TREACHEROUS ANCIENT**  
when he told me someone  
had taken my wife for  
reasons **BEYOND** thinking  
he couldn't lie.



If she hasn't been  
taken, then there's no  
**REASON** for her to  
stay in this world.

YOU SAID SHE WAS  
HERE ABOUT SOME  
SORT OF **ENERGY**  
**CLOG**, RIGHT?




MAYBE  
SHE'S STILL  
TRYING TO  
UNCLOG IT?




Regardless of whether she  
found something, she should have  
returned within a week.



Andrea's  
relatively strong in  
this world, but she's  
not a warrior. she  
would **NOT** willingly  
remain here alone  
for this long.

A black and white comic panel showing two women. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a hooded jacket. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a plaid shirt. They are both looking towards the right.

YOUR WIFE ISN'T A FIGHTER AND HAS A TERRIBLE SENSE OF DIRECTION. AND YOU LET HER GO TO ANOTHER WORLD BY HERSELF?

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of a bird-like character with a large beak and long hair. It is looking slightly to the left.

First of all, I didn't "let" her do anything. She's not my property. She does what she wants.


Secondly, she's brilliant, and nowhere near helpless. She could easily defeat a hippo in combat.

A black and white comic panel showing the blonde woman from the first panel talking to the bird-like character. The bird-like character is looking at her.

A HIPPO?


A hippo.

WHY A HIPPO?

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of the bird-like character. It is looking slightly to the left.


If Andrea *IS* simply having trouble finding her way back, then she would have made camp close to a TALL LANDMARK.

Something she could easily find again even with her sense of direction.

A black and white comic panel showing the two women from the first panel. They are both looking towards the right.

THERE'S A VERY TALL BELL TOWER WITHIN OUR ESTIMATED SEARCH PARAMETERS!

IT'S EVEN CLOSE TO A RIVER AND WOODLAND!

A black and white comic panel showing the woman with dark hair from the first panel talking to the bird-like character. The bird-like character is looking at her.

I GUESS WE SHOULD FLY OVER THERE AND CHECK IT OUT, THEN.



I would greatly appreciate it if you'd guide me to the belltower, but I can search for myself from there. You've all already helped me more than I deserve.



YOU WERE UPSET AND BEING LIED TO BY A MAGICAL DUDE WHO YOU THOUGHT COULDN'T LIE. BESIDES I DON'T WANT TO JUST LEAVE NOW AND NOT KNOW IF YOU EVER FOUND YOUR WIFE FOREVER. THAT WOULD BUG ME



Then I am grateful for your assistance.



ASHLEY I'M SORRY TO CUT OUR DATE SHORT, BUT...



WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE OVER?



BE . BECAUSE FLYING AND GRIFFINS AND STUFF



YOU GUYS ARE SEEING THIS THROUGH, RIGHT?



WELL, YEAH.

YES.

DEFINITELY

I DROVE US HERE AND I KNOW WHERE THE BELL-TOWER IS. TRY AND DITCH ME

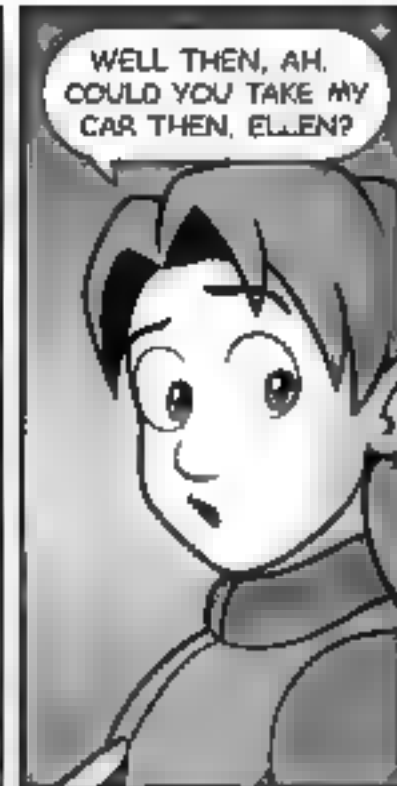


SORRY BUT YOUR GOODNIGHT KISS IS GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT





WELL THEN, AH.  
COULD YOU TAKE MY  
CAR THEN, ELLEN?



MAKE THINGS SIMPLER  
SURE ASHLEY, YOU'RE WITH  
ME. IF YOU DON'T MIND.

THAT'S  
FINE



RIGHT I'LL  
GO WITH  
CHARLOTTE  
AND DIANE

WHAT YOU'RE  
NOT GOING WITH  
ELLEN?



IT'S SAFER  
IF I GO  
WITH YOU

OH MY GOD. WE'RE ALL GOING  
TO THE SAME BELL TOWER. HOW  
ARE YOU GONNA MAKE US SAFER IN  
THE CAR, BACKSEAT DRIVING?!



I SUPPOSE  
THAT'S TRUE,  
BUT...

WE WILL  
SEE YOU  
THERE

YEAH!



AFTER WE SEE  
ELLIOT TURN INTO  
CHEERLEADER

OH  
RIGHT



RIGHT  
WELL, UH...

THIS IS SO WEIRD.  
I BARELY KNOW  
DIANA? AND...

OH MY GOD. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER  
HER NAME, AND I'M ABOUT TO TURN  
INTO CHEERLEADRA IN FRONT OF HER!

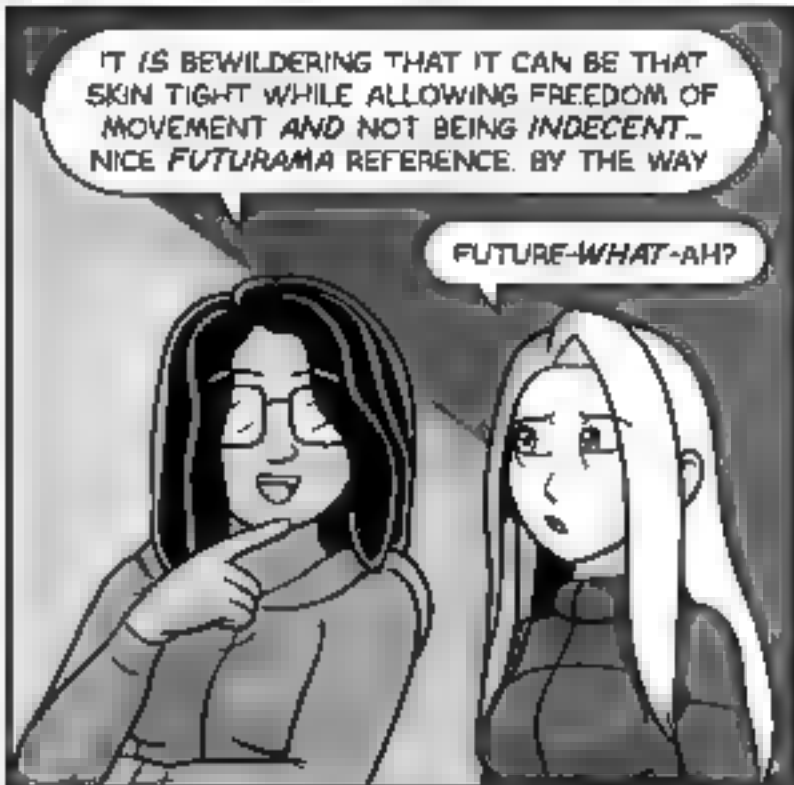
THEY PROBABLY THINK I PICKED  
THAT NAME, TOO AND THE  
OUTFIT! WHY DIDN'T MY SUB-  
CONSCIOUS. OR MAGIC, OR  
WHATEVER GIVE ME SOME-  
THING COOL LIKE THOSE  
URYUOM SUITS?

OKAY HERE  
GOES...

WHAT









HMPH. WELL, AS FASCINATING AS THAT FORM IS, YOU SHOULD RESET AND TRY AGAIN.

WHAT?

WHY?



PEOPLE WILL BE DEBATING IF YOU'RE CHEERLEADER. THE LINCHPIN WILL BE WHETHER YOU CAN TRANSFORM.

SO IF SOMEONE SEES SOME NEW SUPER HERO FLYING AROUND WITH A GRIFFIN TONIGHT IT'LL ACTUALLY SUPPORT THAT



CORRECT HOW NERDY OF YOU TO GET THAT SO QUICKLY.

I'M SMART! THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME A NERD WHO JIKES NERD THINGS.



CAN I GET PICTURES FIRST?

UH... SURE!

IS THAT REALLY A GOOD.



OKAY SURE HAVE FUN.



YOU'VE GOTTEN QUIET

JUST THINK N' BOUT BASEBALL

SO NOT ONLY DOES ELLIOT TURN INTO A GIRL, BUT HIS NEW GIRL-FRIEND IS INTO IT?

AM I INTO IT? SHOULD IT BOTHER ME? IT'S WEIRD, BUT SUPER POWERS ARE COOL. AND WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH SAY HE HAD IN WHAT POWERS HE GOT

REALLY WHAT'S WORRYING IS THAT HE THINKS THAT COSTUME LOOKS COOL



OKAY THAT'S ENOUGH PICTURES. WE'RE KEEPING TARA WAITING.



It is fine. I have no right to demand haste after my earlier behavior.



THAT'S ENOUGH PICTURES.

DEFINITELY ENOUGH PICTURES.

And so, after changing back, and then to Cheerleadra Classic.





WOW I WOULD'VE BET THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS THAT I'D BE THE ONE WHO'D ACCIDENTALLY SPILL THOSE BEANS.



I-IT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW! AND A LONG STORY! AND TARA REALLY WANTS TO FIND HER WIFE!



I really do.

FINE. BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE QUESTIONS LATER.



I'M CURIOUS, TOO BUT YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL OBLIGATED TO TELL ME ANYTHING.



DAMMIT! I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT! I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE WORRIED ABOUT DIANE! THE GRIFFIN ISN'T GOING TO ATTACK HER...



AND IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE OUT THERE!

GONG



GONG



GONG





ALRIGHT,  
LET'S GET  
GOING. WE CAN  
PROBABLY  
CATCH UP  
WITH THEM.



WE SHOULD  
PROBABLY FOLLOW  
THEM FOR SOME  
OF THE WAY.

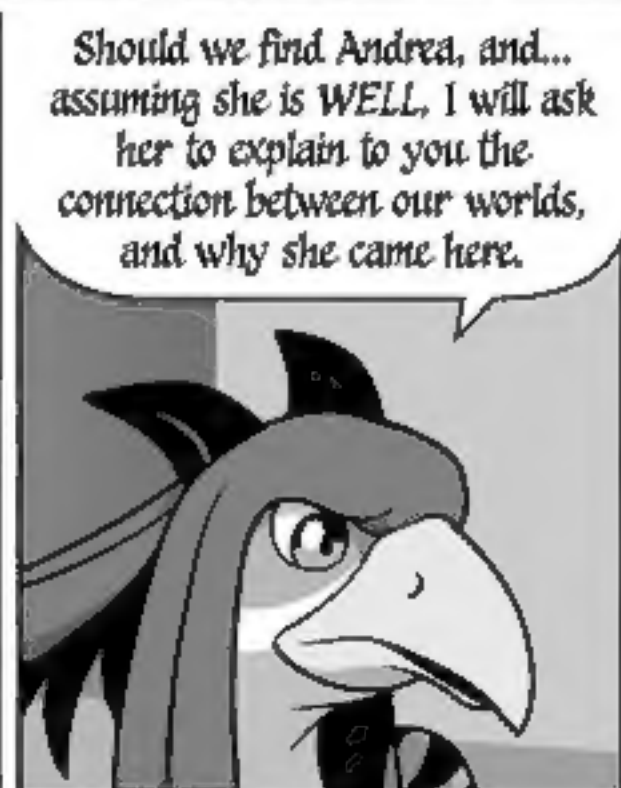
You doubt  
your own  
navigational  
skills while  
flying?



AT NIGHT? SURE.  
I COULD PROBABLY GET US  
THERE, AND WE'LL SEE IT  
SOON ENOUGH, BUT...



...But there's a  
vehicle we can  
follow, so we may  
as well.



Should we find Andrea, and...  
assuming she is *WELL*, I will ask  
her to explain to you the  
connection between our worlds,  
and why she came here.



CONNECTION? I DIDN'T  
THINK WHAT HAPPENED IN  
ONE UNIVERSE MATTERED  
IN OTHER ONES.

AT LEAST,  
NOT WITHOUT  
PEOPLE JUMPING  
BETWEEN THEM  
AND DOING  
STUFF.



I can't explain it  
well, but... I'm not from a  
*SEPARATE* universe.

I'm from the  
first half of  
*THIS* one.





HOW DID YOU...

YOU WERE CONFIDENT  
YOU COULD TELL I HAD  
A MARK, BUT ADMITTED  
YOU COULD BE WRONG  
WHEN THERE WASN'T  
ONE ON MY BACK.

THAT SUGGESTS YOU  
HAD REASON TO THINK  
YOU COULD SENSE  
MARKS, AND THAT IT  
WASN'T *JUST* BASED  
ON YOUR ABILITY. IT  
WAS A CONCLUSION  
YOU REACHED BASED  
ON EVIDENCE.

YOU'RE A SMART GUY,  
SO THAT MEANS AT  
LEAST TWO CONFIRMED  
CASES OF PEOPLE WITH  
MARKS BEFORE REACHING  
THAT CONCLUSION.

YOU'RE *ALSO* NOT ASSUMING  
*EVERYONE* WITH MAGIC HAVE MARKS,  
SO YOU MUST HAVE SOMEHOW FOUND  
OUT THAT SOMEONE ELSE WITH  
MAGIC *DOESN'T* HAVE A MARK.

YOU'RE...  
PRETTY DAMN  
SMART.

HEH. I CAN  
BE. SOME-  
TIMES...

LOOK, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO  
NAME NAMES, BUT I WANTED  
YOU TO KNOW THAT I KNOW,  
AND I HOPE YOU'RE NOT  
FEIGNING IGNORANCE, BECAUSE  
I REALLY DO LIKE YOU.

WHICH IS BOTH SEXY  
AND TERRIFYING.

L-LET'S CONTINUE  
THIS CONVERSATION  
SITTING DOWN...



SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, I DON'T SEE WHY YOU DON'T LIKE THE WORD BISEXUAL. MY SISTER'S BISEXUAL. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT.



HUH. ACCORDING TO THIS, I'M A BISEXUAL HOMO-ROMANTIC? NEAT!

YOU'RE NOT JUST BROWSING THE INTERNET, ARE YOU?



...NO?

I'M FINE WITH "BISEXUAL". IF I WAS FILLING OUT A FORM (AND "NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS" WASN'T AN OPTION), I'D TOTALLY SELECT BISEXUAL.



THE WORD SIMPLY EXISTING WAS A BIG DEAL TO ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

I JUST PRETTY MUCH DON'T LIKE BEING CALLED *ANYTHING*, OR TOLD WHAT I AM, OR *SHOULD* BE. EXCEPT MAYBE CUTE, BUT NOBODY SAYS "YOU'RE A CUTE", SO IT'S NOT REALLY THE SAME.



OH, OKAY. ...NO, WAIT, I'M STILL CONFUSED.

IT'S LIKE... PART OF WHY I DON'T LIKE LABELING PEOPLE IS THE LABELS MEAN *DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE*, AND THEY COME WITH THEIR OWN PREJUDICES AND EXPECTATIONS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M ACTUALLY TELLING SOMEONE WITH LABELS.



AND WHEN IT COMES TO WHO I'M ATTRACTED TO, THAT'S REALLY NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS UNLESS I WANT TO TELL THEM, AND I'D ELABORATE ANYWAY, SO WHAT *REALLY MATTERS* IS WHAT I WANT TO CALL *MYSELF*.



AND YOU DON'T LIKE LABELING PEOPLE IN GENERAL, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO USE ANY TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF.



RIGHT. I AM *NOT* A BISEXUAL ASIAN BALLERINA SOCCER PLAYER GAMER GIRL. I AM A PERSON WHO IS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES WITH ANCESTORS FROM ASIA WHO DANCES BALLET, PLAYS SOCCER AND VIDEO GAMES, WHOSE SEX IS FEMALE, AND CAN FIND MEN AND WOMEN ATTRACTIVE.



I AM ASHLEY, AND I AM WHAT I AM.

